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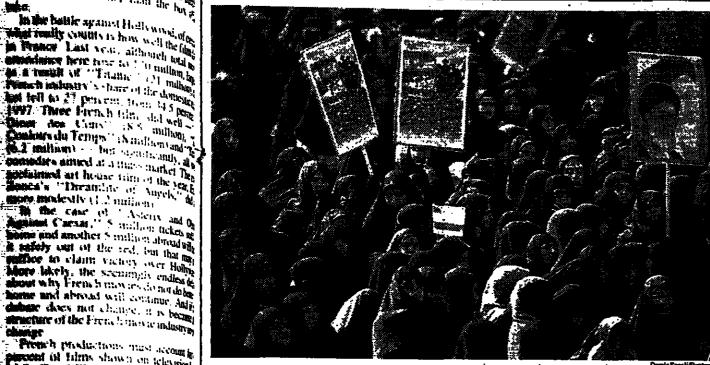
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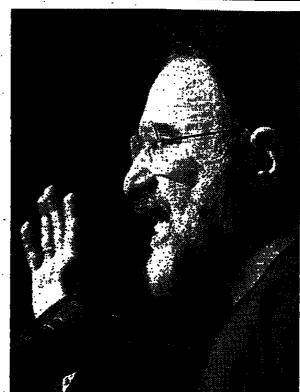
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Iranian women, marching separately, waving pictures of leaders during Tehran observances of the 20th anniversary of the Islamic revolution led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. After years of curbs, bans on music and amusements have been eased a bit.



America's Rosy China Policy Loses Its Bloom

7 Months After Clinton Visit, a New Reality

By Jane Perlez New York Times Service

Burdecan transfer of the data has a WASHINGTON - Seven months after President Bill Clinton's return ME SECTEMBER SEE THE SECOND A 1982 from a picture-perfect trip to China, the promise of a new era in Chinese-Amer-

ican relations has faded.

leaving the administration grappling with an ANALYSIS unexpected round of human rights repression in China and mounting irritation in Congress about Beijing's threat to U.S. national secu-

The retreat in the relationship can be Menufinn, Oscar Peten seen as a contrast between the high expectations set by Mr. Clinton in China and the pessimistic tone set by political forces in both countries that are more intent on confrontation than cooperation, administration officials say.

Instead of showing signs of progress in its policy of "constructive engage ment' with China, the administration is facing a squall of China-bashing in Congress. Even American business, a constituency that the administration's China policy has particularly tried to assist and the loudest advocate of closer ties, is complaining about Beijing's new

restrictions on foreign investment. Stung by the revelations of a con-

gressional inquiry that found that China stole sensitive U.S. military technology, administration officials say they are warily waiting for even more explosive details expected to be announced next month in a declassified report by the members of Congress who headed the

At the same time, the Pentagon has said it is about to release a study that describes a dramatic buildup of missiles on the Chinese coast facing Taiwan.

A draft of the Pentagon report says that while China had fewer than 100 ballistic missiles on its coastline across from Taiwan five years ago, it is projected in three years to have 700 to 800 missiles poised against Taiwan, according to a senior administration official. This assessment said an adminis-

wave of calls about the China threat.' In the face of these obstacles, the administration insists that its policy of constructive engagement still holds. But in the next two months, in advance of the visit to Washington by

Madeleine Albright will intervene per-

sonally in the negotiations between Ser-

bian leaders and ethnic Albanians about

autonomy in Kosovo, U.S. officials said

"She's going to roll up her sleeves and try to work through the security issues that are the core of the Kosovars'

concerns," a Clinton administration of-

ficial said. Mrs. Albright was to arrive in

Paris on Saturday to push for a break-through in the talks.

Mrs. Albright's presence would add the weight of U.S. credibility to the option of conducting NATO air strikes if necessary to break a negotiating im-

passe - a threat that European gov-

ernments have been less willing to bran-

European officials said.

Secretary of State

tration official, is sure to create a "a new

See CHINA, Page 10

Missile Defense Criticism Is Broadened

BEIJING — China broadened its campaign on Thursday against U.S. plans to develop missile defense systems, saying that their deployment could turn space into a "new battle-

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing said the missile defense system proposed by Washington threatened Asian stability and risked damaging China-U.S. ties. And in Geneva, Li Changhe, China's delegate to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, said that Washington's plans to amend the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to pursue the defense "umbrella" would upset the global strategic bal-

But military analysts in Beijing generally played down reports that, in response to the U.S. plans, Beijing had fielded large numbers of ballistic missile batteries aimed at Taiwan, saying that there was no immediate threat to the

"This has been in the works for a while," a Western diplomat said. "It was not unexpected.

The Foreign ministry spokesman, Zhang Qiyue, said that the high-technology theater missile defense system struck at U.S. ties with China as enshrined in three joint communiqués, under which Washington agreed to sell

only defensive weapons to Taipei. 'Including Taiwan in any form in the TMD system would constitute violation of international law, the three joint communiqués and would lay obstacles to the development and improvement of bilateral relations," Miss Zhang said. "It would also be counterproductive to peace and stability in Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region."
Taiwan's Defense Ministry said

Wednesday that China threatened the island with more than 100 M-class ballistic missiles.

U.S. military analysts, citing a Pen-tagon report, said Beijing had deployed from 150 to 200 of the solid-fuel missiles, up from 30 to 50 three years ago. The momentum of development

has increased, but the missiles are just a deterrent," said a military analyst in China. "The Chinese do not have the capability to mount a successful invasion, so this is China putting more emphasis on the stick approach rather than

See MISSILES, Page 10

Clinton Will Win, But by How Much?

Scandal Has Hurt **Major Institutions**

By David S. Broder and Dan Balz Vashington Post Service

WASHINGTON - A year of investigation and impeachment has reinforced negative trends in politics and the news media, widened the gulf be-tween Washington and the American people and left the leaders of the country's major institutions on trial, according to scholars, public-opinion specialists and political analysts.

As the Senate trial of President Bill Clinton moves to its conclusion, the damage from the events of the past year is widespread. The president's personal reputation has plummeted as a result of his conduct, Congress has suffered from its displays of excessive

partisanship, and the news media's reputation has been hurt by its ANALYSIS accelerating appetite for scandal.

"The damage has been pervasive," said William Galston, a University of Maryland professor. "The real question is, how long-lasting?" Virtually every institution that has

come into contact with the scandal over the president's relationship with the White House intern Monica Lewinsky has come away tarnished.

"I think all the institutions involved have looked bad," said Sam Nunn, a former Democratic senator from Georgia, "except the Constitution of the United States.

But many analysts were quick to add that the long-term effects may be very different from those of the Watergate crisis 25 years ago, which caused President Richard Nixon to resign, enhanced the reputation of the press and shifted some power from the president to Con-

The presidency, for example, may not be altered radically because of Mr. Clinton's misdeeds, although public expectations for occupants of the office may be lowered. Congress may not be the target of public ire, but congressional Republicans could be. Still, the current spectacle, which has

played to gradually diminishing audiences, could deepen the public's sense of cynicism and disillusionment toward politics and, this time, the press.

"My worry is that even after the impeachment saga comes to an end, the failure of the parties and of the entertainment-driven media will continue to reinforce the idea of politics as spectator sport - a sport that the public attends to only intermittently," said Michael Sandel, a professor at Harvard

Presidential scholars predicted that the long-term effect of the investigation and the impeachment trial on the pres-

idency would be more limited. "The institution of the presidency

See SCANDAL, Page 10

President Said to Be Bitter and Angry

By Brian Knowlton

WASHINGTON --- With the Senate in the final hours of deliberation over the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, a House prosecutor harshly criticized Mr. Clinton on Thursday over a report that the president, angered by the impeachment trial, planned to focus on his Republican foes for defeat in the 2000 congressional elections.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott of Mississippi, had hoped to reach votes on the two articles of impeachment by late Thursday. But with more than one-third of the 100 senators yet to speak in closed session, the votes - and the end of the long, tortured national drama --- were expected Friday.

'On or about noon tomorrow, this will come to a final vote," Senator Paul Coverdell of Georgia said during a break in the session.

Mr. Clinton's acquittal is considered a virtual certainty, but suspense remained over how many of the 55 Republicans would break ranks and join Democrats voting to clear the president. Three senior Republicans have said they favor acquittal on both counts. Only one or two of the 45 Democrats have given any hint that they might support con-

While Clinton aides have recently spoken of his desire for reconciliation and cooperation in the months ahead, there were signs that the bitterness engendered by months of charges and recriminations, and of personal humiliation for Mr. Clinton, would not quickly

be dispelled. The New York Times reported that Mr. Clinton was so furious with House Republicans that he had vowed to do everything possible to defeat many of them and win back Democratic control

of the House in 2000. (Page 3.)
One of the 13 House prosecutors,
Representative Chris Cannon of Utah, said the report showed that Mr. Clinton had declared "a personal vendetta against the House managers.' To single out certain Republicans for

defeat, he said, "is the height of arrogance, the height of the arrogance of

The White House played down the report. The president's spokesman, Joe Lockhart, told reporters that Mr. Clinton was "very committed to working hard over the next year and a half to help Democrats retake the House and the

.He added, however, "I can't think of a worse, more dumb strategy than going after people based on whether they were a House manager or not."

Most of the 13 prosecutors hold what

are considered to be safe seats. Clearly, however, many Republicans

were infuriated by the talk of singling

See CLINTON, Page 10

As Russia Pleads for Aid, **Big Bank Scandal Erupts**

By David Hoffman ashington Post Service

MOSCOW — The Russian government, while trying to solicit more money and debt relief from the West, is enmeshed in a new and potentially embarrassing corruption scandal at the citadel of its financial system, the central

The chief Russian prosecutor, just before abruptly resigning last week, sent a letter to the lower house of Parliament, the State Duma, disclosing the basic outlines of how a small, unknown offshore company handled about \$50 billion in Russian currency reserves over five years.

Few details have followed, but analysts said the allegations made so far offer a glimpse of the whole panoply of abuses that have plagued Russia in recent years.

These include the exploitation of government money for private gain, the use of secretive, offshore shell companies to hide cash and the helplessness or

complicity of high-level officials in such schemes.

It is not unusual for governments to invest their hard currency reserves overseas, for example in the bonds of another government, but it is highly unusual to turn the investments over to a small, unknown company.

"Most central banks manage their own reserves," said Charles Blitzer, director of emerging markets research at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette in London. "What appears to have happened here, some amount, we don't know the facts yet, were run through an offshore company, and it's not clear why, not clear how much, not clear what returns were made on these assets, what fees were paid and who ultimately pocketed those fees.'

Financial analysts speculate that the firm, Financial Management Co., or Fimaco, earned lucrative commissions for dealing with Russia's money. Yuri Skuratov, the outgoing pros-

See RUSSIA, Page 13

World Bank Admits Failings in Indonesia's Collapse

By David Sanger New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — In a blistering evaluation of its own operations in Indonesia, the World Bank has concluded that its officials ignored corruption, growing repression and a collapsing financial system in the final years of President Subarto's 33-year rule.

The internal report, completed last week and made available to The New York Times, says that the bank knew of many problems but did not want to offend Mr. Suharto's government or threaten the image the World Bank had promoted of Indonesia as one of its great

lending. Over three decades, the World Bank spent more than \$25 billion in development projects there, and watched with pride as the share of the expense of the country's economic future. population living beneath the poverty line shrank to

ss than 11 percent in 1996 from 60 percent in 1970. But the report concludes that Indonesia's rapid growth created a "halo effect" in its relations with Mr. tharto that made the World Bank's top managers unwilling to deliver tough messages to the aging leader. It documents how specialists continued to issue rosy reports to the headquarters in Washington even after a financial crisis spread through Southeast Asia in

the fall of 1997. And it recounts how its sister institution, the In-

Mr. Suharto resigned under pressure in May. Indonesian officials who saw an earlier version of the report objected to many of its findings.

The report was written by a unit that is supposed to provide an independent assessment of the World Bank's performance in developing nations. It reports directly to the World Bank's board, and has been given greater powers since James Wolfensohn, the World Bank president, began an overhaul four years ago.

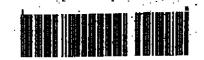
AGENDA Albright to Intervene in Kosovo Talks A Shake-Up at Top By Joseph Fitchett For Utah Olympics

The Salt Lake Organizing Committee, coping with a corruption scandal in connection with the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, undertook a shake-up Thursday that included hiring a Massachusetts venture capitalist, Mitt Romney, as its new president and chief executive of-

As the committee announced reforms, including new conflict of interest rules, three of its leading members resigned. Page 18.

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Pound	1.623	1.627
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dish - if Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav president, refuses to yield. Mrs. Albright's strong advocacy of force was pivotal in bringing Mr. Milosevic to the negotiations, U.S. and U.S. tactics appeared to be focused on persuading the ethnic Albanian repre-

sentatives to accept a peace plan centered on autonomy within the province, but short of independence. If the ethnic Albanians agreed to such an accord and the Serbs refused, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization would be poised to execute its threat of

air strikes to compel Mr. Milosevic to bow to Western demands and abandon his attempt to dominate Kosovo from Belgrade, U.S. officials said. But NATO would not act against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo if the ethnic

Albanians insist on pursuing the immediate demand of independence, a goal the West refuses to support, one U.S. official said from Washington. Serbian negotiators have publicly offered to accept the principles in the Western plan, and Belgrade television repeated that position Thursday. But

U.S. and French officials played down

U.S., European and Russian negotiat-"We consider that these points were accepted when the parties turned up" for the talks at Rambonillet, near Paris, a French official said, explaining that the negotiations centered on the still-secret

blueprint for autonomy. . Stressing the scope of self-rule offered in the plan, the U.S. official said

See KOSOVO, Page 10



Ethnic Albanians bearing 40 coffins, draped in Albanian flags, Thursday at the village of Racak, where the bodies were found shot to death Jan. 15. Kosovo rebels and foreign observers laid the killings to Serbs.

this apparent concession, saying that the Serbian offer concerned only broad points stipulated before the talks by the

The nation is one of the leading recipients of bank ternational Monetary Fund, "reached a stage of open

The assessment comes at a time of enormous debate See BANK, Page 10

Ripping at Karachi's Seams, Faction Wars Spill Out Mayhem

By Barry Bearak

 ARACHI, Pakistan — Murderous and macabre, Karachi is a patchwork of robust commerce and urban detritus, where modern seaside high-rises loom above mud-caked squatter colonies and much of the water supply is delivered by donkey cart.

Common thugs moonlight as political operatives, and a Kalashnikov rifle is easy to rent for \$10 a week. With 10 million people, it is one of the world's largest and most dangerous cities.

For nearly a decade, two predatory political factions with terrorist elements — the Muttahida Qaumi Movement and its rival offshoot, the Haqiqi - have fought each other and, very often, the police and the army.

Karachi has slipped back and forth between times of deadly mayhem and brutal crackdowns, the one a disease that is crippling the city and the other a temporary remedy that many here say only ensures more violence ahead.

Right now is a period of crackdown. The Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, has used his constitutional powers to turn over control of Sind Province, which includes Karachi, to his

appointed governor, Moinuddin Haider.

"What choice was there, with terrorists killing people every day, mutilating their bodies, cutting them up, stuffing them in sacks and dropping them around the city?" asked General Haider, who had recently retired.

Much of Pakistan, not just Karachi, suffers from lawlessness. While Mr. Sharif's get-tough tactics may combat crime, it is commonly believed that he also wants tighter control over his economically troubled country now that his popularity has

In Karachi, police officers and paramilitary troops were unleashed to capture people accused of being terrorists, and thousands of people were taken into custody like minnows in a seine.

Workers of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, or MQM, Karachi's main political party, have been particular targets of the crackdown. The party successfully competes in elections and ruthlessly kills and extorts in the streets. Its support comes from Urdu-speakers known as Mohajirs, whose families migrated from India a half-century ago and formed much of the city's business class.

For the "speedy and inexpensive justice" that he insists is a must, Mr. Sharif had little faith in the existing courts and their overwhelmed, often intimidated civilian judges. In December, citing conviction rates of less than 1 percent, he enlisted military officers to try criminal cases, a strategy he says he now hopes to expand to the rest of the



A man whose son was sentenced to death being consoled by relatives after hearing the ruling. In an effort to control crime in Karachi, the Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, enlisted military officers to try criminal cases.

Under the procedures in Sind, General Haider as fast. Though Mohammed had but three days to

The near-hanging of Mohammed Saleem, 14, is working, though whether these workings are a horror or a triumph is in dispute.

ented for the teenager, though he had a solid system of justice. alibi and witnesses to back it up.

to be legally tried as an adult.

many here that shows that the system is fair as well it was 37.

chooses cases for three-judge military tribunals, and the time between a trial and an execution is the lived was enough to alert human-rights lawyers to his case. A second military panel set him free, sending him home from the central jail's Death an example of how this refashioned justice is Cell 14, a stark cement room where he awaited the noose with only a blanket and a pan.

In two months, 13 people have been sentenced During one of the military's swiftly held trials, to death, though after a murderer and a rapist went Mohammed, an illiterate carpet-weaver, was con- to the gallows, the Supreme Court suspended victed along with several others in the terrorist executions and is considering whether the prime murder of three policemen. No defense was minister had the authority to set up this parallel

Whatever the legality, the effects have been Ignored as well was his age: He was too young tranquilizing. The number of murders in Karachi, according to official statistics, has fallen sharply. On the other hand, the young man lives, and to The monthly total last June was 139; in December

TRAVEL UPDATE

FORT WORTH, Texas (Bloomberg)

- AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, the

world's second-largest carrier, canceled

1,100, or 49 percent, of its flights Thurs-

day amid signs that pilots are resisting a

federal judge's order to end a six-da

Pilots began calling in sick on Sat-

urday after the sides failed to settle pay

and job issues linked to AMR's purchase

of low-fare airline Reno Air Inc., forcing

cancellation of thousands of flights.

International Flights

To Helsinki Rerouted

HELSINKI (AP) - All international

flights to the Finnish capital on Saturday

are to be rerouted to Turku and Tampere

because of an air traffic controllers' strike,

officials said Thursday, and passengers

who end up in those cities will have to

Carnival '99 starts Friday in Brazil,

and political and economic life will

come to the traditional standstill. (AFP)

the first time since 1986, disrupting traffic and public transport. (AP)

traffic and public transport.

Snow fell in Rome on Thursday for

make their way to Helsinki by land.

protest and return to work.

Such statistics are encouraging to Mr. Sharif, who has increasingly relied on the military for civilian chores. Soldiers now run the government's water and power company. They conducted the census in this, the world's eighth most populous country, and are repairing the roads.

The crackdown in Karachi involves political

calculation on Mr. Sharif's part, some say. Sharif had an alliance with the MQM, and when the deal came apart he did what any cutthroat would do," said Ardeshir Cowasjee, an accrbic political commentator and retired businessman. 'In this country everything is possible in the name of power and greed."
When Mr. Sharif was elected in February 1997.

his party, the Pakistan Muslim League, made a deal with the MQM. Together they held enough legislative seats to form a coalition to head Sind's provincial government.

In the bargain, Muttahida Qaumi was granted several ministries, the release of thousands of its jailed workers and reparations for the government's excesses against the party in 1992 and 1995.

ut from the start, the two partners bickered about how the deal was being fulfilled. Political violence again men-aced the peace. Muttahida Qaumi terrorists, including some newly sprung from jail, were taking revenge against the rival Haqiqi faction and law-enforcement officers, occasionally using rockets and grenades.

When the coalition finally came apart, the po-

lice, who had been held back while the MQM shared power, were pleased to be set loose. It was time to retake control," said Farooq

Armin Qureshi, deputy inspector-general of Sind's police, whose wall calendar that shows some of the 422 officers killed in action in the last five years. The police dragnet, he said, extends far beyond the two feuding political factions. Thousands of people suspected of being criminals have been

stained, and while the inspector insisted that torture had never been employed in questioning, some of his ranking assistants, exchanging an-onymity for candor, admitted the opposite. Without sophisticated forensics, these are our

tools of investigation," one said.
But then there is Mohammed Saleem, the 14ear-old who narrowly escaped the noose, who lives with the dismal repercussions of the crackdown. He still suffers pain from the torture applied during interrogations. And there is his financial debt. He paid a worthless lawyer \$2,000 to defend him in his first trial. To get the money, the young carpet weaver had to borrow from his employer.

"I am now a bonded laborer," he said, grimly estimating the length of his indenture. "Twenty years. I think, 20 years tying knots at the loom."

people were evacuated from the French

Alps on Thursday after a fresh avalanche

No casualties were reported in Thurs-

The 12 people evacuated had been

Mountain rescue teams from

The avalanche took place in an area

equipped with concrete avalanche pro-tection walls, which "worked well" and

prevented any damage, Les Houches of-

As a result of the avalanche Thursday,

body of a woman and were checking

whether she was one of two people who

Rescuers brought in heavy machinery

to remove hundreds of tons of snow and

the rubble of destroyed chalets to try find

the French hamlet of Montroc, near

dead Wednesday after the avalanche

hurtled 1,000 meters down the mountain, going about 100 meters up the

Ten people, all French, were found

body from the earlier avalanche

had been reported missing.

ficials said.

Chamonix.

staying in two chalets, the police said.

Chamonix were alerted at 4:20 A.M.

day's avalanche in the region of Les

. whack Time **Move Civilians** Out of Battle, Eritrea Is Told

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Ethiopia warned Eritrea on Thursday to evacuate civilians from frontline zones in their border war as the United States organized the departure of nonessential Americans from the two Horn of Africa

Ethiopian government sources said battles continued for the sixth day — despite declarations in Asmara, the Eritrean capital, that no fighting had taken place on Wednesday — and that the clashes were particularly ferocious on the western Badme front. Both governments reacted with dis-

may to a UN Security Council vote demanding an immediate halt to hostilities and urging a ban on the sale of arms and ammunition to both. Salome Tadesse, a spokeswoman for

the Ethiopian government, said the cease-fire demand was illogical.

"Ethiopia does not want this war," she said. "Ethiopia has been attacked in its national sovereignty. If you are attacked on your own land, what do you do?" In Asmara, Andemicail Kahsay, an Eritrean Foreign Ministry official, said

his government was dismayed the council had not named Ethiopia the aggressor. In Addis Ababa, a communiqué is-sued by Mrs. Tadesse's office said: "Ethiopia calls on Eritrea to evacuate civilians from the battle zones."

Asmara charged Tuesday that an Ethiopian aerial bombardment of the village of Laili Deda, close to the western front, had killed five civilians.

The communiqué said that if this were true, "the Ethiopian government sincerely regrets these civilian deaths." It added, however: "Eritrean authorities should have never positioned civilians so close to the hostile border for

any length of time."
The United States was organizing what amounts to an evacuation of Americans in nonessential jobs in Ethiopia

and Eritrea, a diplomat said.

The U.S. government, which is officially "requesting" the departures, will pay the travel expenses of such Americans working at the U.S. embassies in the two capitals, and of those with the Peace Corps and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Pope May Visit Hong Kong This Year

Delicate Move Comes Amid Indications of Thaw in Tensions With Beijing **Further Disruptions**

By Erik Eckholm

Such a visit could soften the decades-

old standoff between the Vatican and China's Communist government, which has sovereignty over Hong Kong. The Vatican and China have also engaged in secret discussions about improving relations, said a Chinese Cath-

olic bishop in a recent magazine in-But the 82-year-old bishop of Shang- bishops and other matters. hai gave no sign that the two sides were

overcoming their bitter history.

freighted with politics to be feasible, church officials say.

BEIJING - Pope John Paul II is Communists severed ties with the Vat- the Catholic Church there continued to considering a visit to Hong Kong later ican and created a "patriotic" church, report to the Vatican. this year, according to church officials in which now is reported to have 4 million But many Chinese Catholics have re-

mained defiantly loyal to the Pope and now as many as 6 million, by outside estimates, worship illegally, and their leaders are often arrested. China demands that religious groups

be subservient to the Communist Party, while the Vatican insists that the Vatican must have authority over appointment of

its autonomous status, may be too province.

Further angering China, the Vatican maintains diplomatic ties with Taiwan, Even a papal visit to Hong Kong, with . which China considers to be a renegade

Gideon Rafael Is Dead at 85; Long-Serving Israeli Diplomat

A Must Read Complimentary Report

A Professional's Guide to Currency

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This comprehensive report is mandatory

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profitable, simple, fully disclosed trading

models, an 11 year track record and all

price data for performance verification

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Forex Capital Management and Cu

By Joel Greenberg

JERUSALEM — Gideon Rafael, 85, a founder of the Foreign Ministry of Israel and one of its most accomplished and longest serving diplomats, died in Jerusalem on Wednesday.

During a long career that began before Israel was established, Mr. Rafael negotiated with the Nazis to send Jews to Palestine, served at the United Nations and in Europe, and conducted secret contacts with Arab states. He was also a frequent contributor to the International Herald Tribune. Born in Berlin in 1913, Mr. Rafael left

Germany after Hitler's rise to power and immigrated to British-ruled Palestine in

In 1940 he was sent to Europe by the Haganah, the Jewish armed force in Palestine, to negotiate the rescue of 40,000 German Jews. He met in Italian-controlled Rhodes with a representative of Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi leader, to discuss a plan to send Jews to Palestine through a transit camp on the island. The

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scheme failed when Italy entered World After serving with the British Army

during the war, Mr. Rafael joined the political department of the Jewish Agency, where he did intelligence work and was put in charge of efforts to recover Jewish property lost in Europe. In 1947, he was a member of the Jewish Agency's delegation to the United Nations when the General As-

sembly voted to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. After Israel declared independence in May 1948, Mr. Rafael founded its Foreign Ministry in Tel Aviv with Moshe

Sharett, the country's first foreign min-Mr. Rafael was the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Earlier, he had served as ambassador to Belgium and the European Community, and to the United Na-

tions organizations in Geneva. After a stint as director-general of the Foreign Ministry, he served as ambassador to the United Kingdom from 1973 to 1978, when he retired

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Correction

Under the "one country, two sys- At American Airlines tems" model that gave Hong Kong au-After taking over China in 1949, the tonomy when it joined China in 1997,

> After a synod of Asian bishops at the Vatican last spring, church officials said the Pope might visit Hong Kong, New Delhi or Jerusalem to report conclu-

Now, in an interview with an Italian Catholic magazine called 30 Giorni, the bishop of Shanghai, Aloysius Jin Luxian. has said that church leaders in Hong Kong were promoting a papal visit

Officials in Rome as well as the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong said Thursday that there had been no decision ver about the Pope's Asian visit, expected to occur late this year.

"Of course, we'd like the Pope to come here," said a Hong Kong official spokeswoman of the diocese, Mary

"A papal visit to Hong Kong now would be a breakthrough," said Beatrice

would be a breakthrough, 's said near the Leung, an expect on politics and religion at Lingnan College in Hong Kong.

Asked whether Beijing would allow a visit, a spokeswoman for China's Forwisit, a spokeswoman left in the hands of the Hong Kong

But the spokeswoman, Zhang Qiyue, added that China's ties with the Vatican could improve only if it severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan and agreed not to interfere in the internal affairs of China, including religious af-

In his interview, Bishop Jin of Shanghai expressed a yearning for reconciliation, saying: "The Pope represents the Supreme

Leader of all the world's Catholics including those in China. His office said Thursday that he could not be reached.

Bishop Jin also said that the Vatican and China were engaged in a dialogue and that he dreamed of seeing a papal nuncio in Beijing.

Past negotiations have gone nowhere. Still, Pope John Paul II has said he hopes some day to visit China.

An article Monday incorrectly associated the European Human Rights Court with the 15-nation European Union. The

court is the judicial arm of the 40-nation Council of Europe, which includes Central and Eastern European states, Russia

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Protection Walls Save 12 Lives In New French Alps Avalanche opposite slope to smash 17 chalets in an CHAMONIX. France — Twelve area registered as safe for construction.

roared down a mountainside near the the search overnight for fear of fresh Chamonix region where 11 people were avalanches. The chances of finding those buried alive more than 36 hours after the disaster were slim because they would very likely have died of exposure if they had survived the blast of the avalanche and suffocation from the powdery snow.

About 150 rescuers resumed work at

Montroc at daybreak after suspending

Snow experts said the risk of avalanches was still very high, although the return of good weather was gradually making the snow more stable and safer.
While the weather improved, rail

traffic between France and Switzerland in the Jura Mountains was still cut by snowdrifts. Meanwhile, about 25,000 tourists

the Mont Blanc tunnel between France and Italy was closed off in both diblocked for five days by snow in western rections for safety reasons, road author-Austria were able to leave after main roads in the region were cleared, an Meanwhile, rescuers dug out an 11th official said Thursday. Virtually all main routes in the Tyrol A spokesman said they had found the

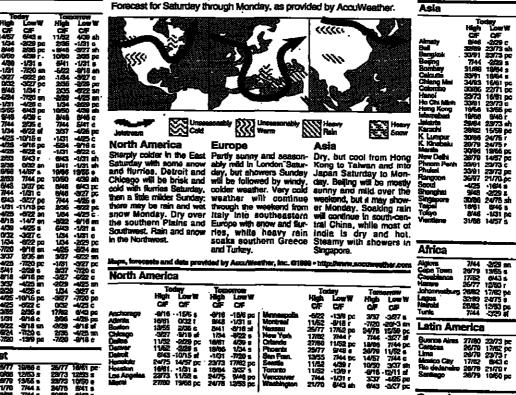
and Volariberg regions were clear, and most of the tourists were able to leave by late Wednesday, said Gerhard Koch of the Austrian touring club.

Only one village remained blocked,

The opening up of the region came a day after the Austrian Army airlifted the two people who were still missing in supplies to tourists trapped in the Tyrolean resort of Galtuer.

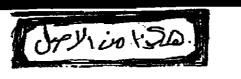
"Galtuer is being supplied from the air, but generally the situation has improved considerably," a spokesman for the Tyrol tourist board said. (AFP, AP)

WEATHER



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THE WORLD'S DALLY NEWSPAPER



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Walls Save 12 Livi been decided in favor of plaintiffs, and all of those cases have been overturned on appeal.

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Eritrea Is To

By Richard L. Berke and James Bennet WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton is so furious at House Republicans over his impeachment, his advisers say, that he has vowed to mount an all-out offensive to de-

feat many of his foes and win back the House for Democrats in 2000. Mr. Clinton has already committed to early fund-raising events in nine cities - the first will be in San Francisco in two weeks — to amass a war chest to help House Democrats. another goal that the president con-

Jury Awards \$51.5 Million Tetherna has been to the land of the land To a Smoker

In Addies Verde, it communicated by Man Tradesco office of Pethopas calls on Protection of the Samuel of Tradesco office of punitive damages to a former Mariboro smoker with inoperable lung cancer—the largest jury verdict ever against a tobacco company wave of tobacco litigation.

The San Francisco Superior Court jury's decision Wednesday came after a day of deliberations, and a day after awarding \$1.5 million in compensatory damages to Patricia Henley, 52, who smoked her first Marlboro at the age of 15 during a high school dance two years before the landmark report of 1964 by the surgeon general that labeled smoking as a cause of lung cancer and other diseases.

The legal defeat for the tobacco giant Philip Morris Cos., the maker of Mariboros and several other brands, could throw open the floodgates for individual lawsuits against tobacco companies, long considered a losing proposition for trial lawyers, analysts said. Only three other individual lawsuits over conventional cigarettes have ever been decided in favor of plaintiffs, overturned on appeal.

The case also marked only the dwarfs any previous decision.

well." said Edward Sweda of the zona since the Supreme Court is-Tobacco Products Liability Project at Northeastern University.

Gary Black, a tobacco-industry analyst who is normally bullish on the industry's prospects, agreed. "You're going to have hundreds of new lawsnits filed in California," he

During the four-week trial, Ms. Henley's lead attorney, Madelyn Chaber, accused the company of targeting underage smokers and covering up scientific evidence that smoking causes cancer through a

long propaganda campaign.

Ms. Chaber told the jury that nearly a decade ago, when Ms. Henley sought information from a Philip Morris toll-free telephone service about the health risks of smoking, a company representative stated the company's position that smoking did not cause cancer but suggested that if she was concerned, she could

switch to low-tar brands. Ms. Henley then became a Marlboro Light smoker—and went from smoking two packs a day to smoking three. She tried unsuccessfully to quit once, finally succeeding in the fall of 1997 after suffering from coughing fits and other symptoms. Doctors diagnosed her cancer

in January 1998. An attorney for Philip Morris, William Ohlemeyer of the Kansas City firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon, argued that Ms. Henley's cancer actually originated in her thyroid and not in her lungs and suggested that Ms. Henley should have been aware of the health risks of tobacco and that she had voluntarily assumed those risks.

Shares in Philip Morris dropped \$4.1875, or 10 percent, on Wed-nesday, closing at \$41.1875, partly in response to the news of the \$1.5 million verdict on compensatory

how the president regularly rattled rescue the Social Security system. adviser who has discussed the next more striking because leading off details about House Republicans But Mr. Clinton has assured elections with Mr. Clinton. "He's House Democrats have long comwho may be vulnerable, based on their margins of victory in the 1998 election and Mr. Clinton's own vote performance in their districts when

he was re-elected in 1996. viewed winning back the House as ident Al Gore as his successor.

But if Mr. Clinton's partisan zeal sonal vendetta, it could undermine

Republicans to pass legislation and still have plenty of political ammunipart of his legacy." tion for the elections next year.

The president is particularly angry They said Mr. Clinton now at the House members who managed much a president could do to help the prosecution of his impeachment almost as important an affirmation trial in the Senate, according to his of his legacy as electing Vice Pres- advisers, believing that they have needlessly prolonged the trial. But most of the House managers are and Richard Nixon, despite high is viewed by Republicans as a per- from districts that are considered po- personal popularity, both failed in litically safe for them.

"He knows the districts, he siders crucial to his legacy: his leg-knows the candidates, and he islative priorities, notably a drive to doesn't like these people," said an the congressional contests is all the

Democrats that they can work with obviously real hot on the managers.

White House officials said they were aware that there was only so congressional candidates. They said he could be most effective in raising money and in recruiting candidates. Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt

efforts to defeat specific congressional candidates.



CHILEANS AT ODDS — A supporter of Augusto Pinochet's, right, arguing with an opponent Thursday in Santiago during a rally to press for the ex-dictator's release from custody in Britain.

Miranda Warning Law Challenged

By William Glaberson New York Times Service

unused by prosecutors for 30 years. But this week, a federal appeals court in Virginia dusted off a law passed by Congress in 1968 and used it to declare that federal lawenforcement officials need not follow one of the country's bedrock

which criminal suspects routinely said that the ming was the most "Tobacco litigation is alive and serious challenge to Miranda v. Ari-

sned that ruling in 1966.

legal rules, the "Miranda," under

Over the past three decades, Miranda has become part of the language and its "You have the right" warning one of the most familiar incantations of American culture. The Miranda ruling said people in police custody should be told that they had the right to legal representation and that any statements they made could be used against

The court in Richmond, Virginia,

AMERICAN

TOPICS

In California, a Million Bucks

Just Ain't What It Used To Be

Clearly, a million bucks ain't what it used to

be. In Southern California, sales of homes

worth \$1 million or more are at an all-time high

- but in chic areas like Malibu and Lagnna,

that solid-sounding sum no longer guarantees

a swimming pool or an ocean view, and some

million-dollar homes have only three or four

The big-buck homes are even being mass-

produced, reports the Los Angeles Times.

Across the region, 30 subdivisions of homes

priced at \$1 million and above are under

construction, and some have waiting lists. The

trend marks a dramatic change from only three

years ago, when sales of million-dollars

Nationwide, 1,345 people became millionares every day in 1997, a 72-percent increase from 1990 and the highest level ever, ac-

cording to Spectrem Group, a San Francisco consulting firm.

slumped to their lowest recorded level.

bedrooms.

Short Takes

ruled the Miranda decision in its anda ruling. 1968 law, which sought to make it WASHINGTON — It sat there easier for federal prosecutors to use Supreme Court decision revisiting

> "shall be admissible in evidence if it Virginia. is voluntarily given."

The appeals-court ruling took place not because of an argument interpreted to apply to both federal from the government, but because and state law-enforcement officials. private conservative organizations But the 1968 law applied only to DOW tutional.

has a reputation as one of the most unaffected by the ruling, and Mirconservative in the country, dis- anda warnings are to remain stanmissed that position as political.

law and not politics," the majority cision. opinion said. One of the three judges on the

panel dissented in the decision. Legal experts said the ruling almost certainly would be reviewed by the full 13-member 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in Richmond, and could lead to a reconsideration

ticket booths.

An environmental coalition has petitioned | toos often lead to discrimination at restaurants

held Monday that Congress over- by the Supreme Court of the Mir-"It sets the stage for a significant

the status of Miranda," said A.E. The 1968 law, part of a crime-control bill, said that a confession stimtional law at the University of

The Miranda requirement that. suspects be told their rights has been second time a jury had awarded punitive damages in a tobacco case, from coast to coast, prosecutors, and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts

The Case also make to the decision had filed friend-of-the-court briefs. In fact, the Justice Department has never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the 1968 law and the \$51.5 million total easily defense lawyers and legal experts never enforced the the Richmond court. State law-enforcement officials

The court in Richmond, which in those states and elsewhere are dard practice unless the Supreme "Fortunately, we are a court of Court retreats from its 1966 de-

The Supreme Court has repeatedly undercut the strength of its own Miranda ruling over the years by saying in later decisions that Miranda warnings were merely "prophylactic" and "not themselves rights protected by the constitu-

Bruce Babbitt, the interior secretary, to ban snowmobiles from the 28 places that allow

them among the National Park System's 378

The Bluewater Network move reflects

growing public intolerance with the noise.

risks and air pollution of off-road recreations

vehicles. Thirty years after they first gained

popularity, snowmobiles are still so noisy that

they are sold without horns, and their emis-

sions are dirtier than the blue smoke issued by

1950s automobiles, reports The New York

Times. The Bluewater Network, which rep-

resents about 1 million people, said a modern snowmobile emits 1,000 times the hydrocar-

bons and nitrous oxides of a modern car. At

Yellowstone National Park, which gets 60,000

snowmobile visits a year, exhaust from the

vehicles has caused nausea among park

rangers, forcing the park to pump fresh air into

But the \$6 billion snowmobile industry is

enjoying a renaissance, boosted by more-re-liable machines and warmer sports clothing.

After a slump in the 1980s, the number of

snowmobiles registered nationwide has reboun-

ded to 1.4 million. Some 2.5 million people ride

them each winter, and enthusiasts insist there is

In Maine, meanwhile, legislators have de-

cided that motorcyclists do not deserve special

protection under the state Human Rights Act.

Bikers say their black leather outlits and tat-

enough public land for everyone.

plained that he has not been particularly engaged in House and Sen-ate races, Many blame him for the Democrats' loss of House control in 1994 and for not winning it back in 1996 and 1998.

Another adviser who has spoken to the president about wresting back the House in 2000 said, "It will be a personal crusade." He added: "The man knows he's done wrong. But he also knows they should not have taken it to the extreme they have. He says: 'It's the unfairness of this whole process. These right-wingers who tried to undo the election.

Beyond his scorn at House Republicans, several advisers șaid Mr. Clinton also was motivated by grat-itude to Representative Dick Gephardt, the Democratic leader in the House for deciding not to challenge Mr. Gore for the Democratic presidential nomination. He also is described as indebted to House Democrats for sticking by him and ensuring that his impeachment could

not be called a bipartisan decision. Besides the House managers, Mr. Clinton told Mr. Gephardt he was determined to defeat Representative Jay Dickey, an Arkansas Republican, according to people familiar with the conversations. Mr. Dickey was elected in 1992, and his district includes the president's boyhood homes of Hope and Hot Springs.

Ed Bryant, a Tennessee Republican who is a House manager, said: "If he feels he has to vindicate himself by going after House managers, then he has to do that. All I can say is that we as a House, the majority, felt that we certainly didn't put him in this predicament. If anybody ought to be upset, it ought to be American people, with the president, for doing

those things."

The president's impeachment also has emboldened other Democrats to say they are eager to unseat House Republicans.

"After these years of Ken Starr, people are more energized than I've seen them since the '60s and '70s,' said David Geffen, an entertainment executive and major Clinton supporter. Referring to James Rogan, a California Republican who is considered one of the most vulnerable House managers in 2000, he added,. "Many of us are looking forward to spending time and money and effort to defeating James Rogan."

People for the American Way, a liberal group, announced a \$5 million television, organizational and grass-roots campaign Wednesday aimed at unseating congressional mesident Carol Shields

White House officials have not been shy about saying how they plan to use the Republicans' impeachment votes against them. "Every one of those distinguished citizens is now on record saying they not only want to shut the government down but they want to kick the president out." a senior Clinton strategist said.

House and Senate Democrats are planning a series of joint fundraisers starring the president to present what officials described as a "Democratic unity message." The goal is to raise \$10 million in 1999.

and hotels. The Judiciary Committee rejected a proposal to amend the rights act — which bars discrimination based on race, sex, religion, national origin or disability — to include mo-torcyclists and those who wear clothing displaying the name of a motorcycle group.

A similar proposal passed in Minnesota.

That, of course, is the state that recently elected a former professional wrestler, Jesse Ventura,

The Reverend Jerry Falwell, the television evangelist, has suggested that Tinky Winky, a bag-carrying character on the popular children's show "Telembbies," is gay. An article in his National Liberty Journal noted that Tinky Winky, in addition to carrying a "purse," was purple, "the gay-pride color," and had an antenna shaped like a triangle, "the gay-pride symbol." (The Tubbies have tele-vision screens on their tummies.)

Steve Rice, a spokesman for Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Co., which licenses the British show in the United States, said the purse is actually a magic bag.

"The fact that he carries a magic bag doesn't make him gay," Mr. Rice said. "To think we would be putting sexual innuendo in a chil-dren's show is kind of outlandish."

Mr. Falwell contends the "subtle depictions" are intentional and constitute a role model that could be "damaging to the moral lives of children.

Brian Knowlton

Study Exposes Americans' Troubles with Sex

By John Schwartz Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A large number of American men and women are unlucky in love - or, at least, in sex - according to the first study to explore the full range of sexual problems of men and women in the general population since the Kinsey reports of a half-century ago.

Four out of 10 women and nearly onethird of men suffer from a variety of problems in the bedroom that are grouped under the general heading 'sexual dysfunction,' according to the new study. The list includes lack of sexual desire, physical pain during intercourse, an inability to become sexual ally aroused or to complete sexual acts, premature climax and anxiety about sexual performance.

Laumann, a sociology professor at the of the Journal of the American Medical University of Chicago and lead author of Association. the study. Yet if anything the prevalence of sexual problems is higher than the survey findings indicate, he said. "You don't really expect people to rush up and lems in youth while men's problems tell people they're impotent."

More important, Mr. Laumann said, most people who experience sexual difficulties do not seek help from doctors or sexual educators — only one in 10 men faction. and one in five women- so the "iceberg effect" here is really enormous, and could help to explain the interest in the anti-impotence drug Viagra. "With the strong association between

sexual dysfunction and impaired quality

of life, this problem warrants recog-

"The rates are far higher than anyone cern," concluded the authors, whose had really anticipated," said Edward work appeared in Wednesday's edition Men and women go through sexual

difficulties at different life stages, the study shows. Women tend to have probgrow more pronounced with age. Married men and women appear to have fewer sexual problems than singles, and education was linked to sexual satis-

The study was based on data from the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey, a comprehensive research effort involving 90-minute, face-to-face interviews with 1,749 women and 1,410 men. That was enough, the researchers estimate, to be a representative sample of nition as a significant public health con- 97 percent of the nation.

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WORLDWIDE

ERICSSON **S**

"As I have said all along, I try not to comment with respect to the independent counsel's function," Ms. Reno said. "I will, however, continue to look to see how I may comment in a way that is fair to all concerned, consistent with the law and consistent with ethical considerations. "I have tried my level best to do this the right way, to

Probe of Starr? Reno Not Talking

WASHINGTON - Attorney General Janet Reno re-

fused direct comment on whether her department is

looking into possible prosecutorial wrongdoing by the

independent counsel Kenneth Starr, but said Thursday

At her weekly news conference, Ms. Reno repeatedly

parried questions about news reports saying the Justice

Department would investigate whether Mr. Starr over-

stepped his bounds in the early days of the Monica

that she would not interfere with his investigation.

Lewinsky investigation.

that nothing has been done, but I will continue to work to ensure that result." Under the law establishing independent counsels for some political cases, the attorney general cannot take any disciplinary action against the prosecutor short of firing. Ms. Reno has stated that she would not undertake an

ensure that there was no effort whatsoever to interfere

with his investigation," she said. "And I am convinced

investigation of an independent counsel unless the charges were severe enough to merit firing. Mr. Starr was appointed more than four years ago to investigate the role of President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton in an Arkansas land deal and related

Ms. Reno approved Mr. Starr's request more than a year ago to expand his Whitewater inquiry into allegations related to Mr. Clinton's relationship with Ms.

Another Bid for Buchanan?

WASHINGTON - Pat Buchanan, the fiery conservative populist who shook up the Republican presidential race in 1996, is seriously considering a third campaign for the presidency, associates said Thursday.

I can confirm he is seriously looking at it," said Mr. Buchanan's sister, Bay Buchanan, who ran his 1996 campaign. "We are looking at individuals we might use on the campaign staff if he decides to run." Other associates of Mr. Buchanan said he was leaning

toward running in next year's election and had even provisionally tapped a campaign manager and finance director. He has tentatively scheduled a public announcement for March 1, they said.

Mr. Buchanan, 60, has kept a relatively low profile recently, devoting himself to his job as a political pundit and television commentator.

Many Republicans assumed he would not run again for the presidency.

Quote/Unquote

Senator James Jeffords, Republican of Vermont, as he formally announced that he would vote to acquit President Clinton on both articles of impeachment: 'Whatever the final outcome, I will leave this trial with the knowledge that the president has indeed committed shameful acts, misled the American people and brought disrepute on the office of the presidency."

Away From Politics

 Seven men and five women have been chosen in Jasper. Texas, to decide the late of a suspected white supremacis who could face the death penalty in the dragging death of a black man. District Attorney Guy James Gray said that he was barred from commenting about the panel, but added: "It is not an all-white jury."

• Foiled in their first attempt, U.S. demolitions experts came back with bigger explosives and napalm Thursday in an attempt to ignite the fuel from a Japanese-owned cargo ship mired off the Oregon coast and save beaches from a disastrons spill.

• A man from Newcastle upon Tyne, England, with a history of sex offenses against children was charged Thursday with contributing to the delinquency of a child after he traveled to Ohio to meet and marry a 15-year-old girl he met on the Internet, police in Springdale, Ohio,

 Eastman Kodak Co. is recalling 120,000 AC adapters for digital cameras because of an electrical problem that could cause camera batteries to leak acid and

 Papers signed by Babe Ruth when he bought a home near Boston in the 1920s were discovered to be missing one day after a probation officer in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, was charged with stealing dead baseball



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Habibie Aims To Resolve **Timor Issue** By End of Year

By Mark Dodd New York Times Service

JAKARTA - President B.J. Habibie called Thursday for a resolution of the East Timor political crisis by the end of the year, saying he favored independence for the former Portuguese colony that was invaded by Indonesia in 1975.

Offering East Timor the prospect of joining in national elections scheduled for June 7, Mr. Habibie said that if a wide-ranging autonomy package for the province was rejected, "then East Timor can become independent.'

"From January 1, 2000, we don't want to be burdened with the East Timor problem," Mr. Habibie said in a speech to the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry. "As a friend, we will let them decide by themselves."

The president's comments came after the release into house arrest Wednesday of the East Timorese separatist leader, Xanana Gusmao, who was jailed in 1992 for 20 years for inciting rebellion. Mr. Gusmao, 52, once the most wanted

man on East Timor during his days as a guerrilla fighter, is revered by the majority of East Timor's 800,000 population and will play a leading role in current United Nations-brokered negotiations between Portugal and Indonesia.

In the event of East Timor's becoming independent — a possibility that could occur as early as next year - Mr. Gusmao could well become the fledgling nation's first president.

Some analysts say that he and the territory's Roman Catholic religious leader, Bishop Carlos Belo, are the only East Timorese who have the credibility to lead the territory into independence.

President Habibie had said earlier that

if an autonomy package for East Timor was rejected, then Indonesia's new Parliament, to be appointed following the June 7 national elections, would be asked to approve independence. Jose Ramos Horta, the independence

leader and Nobel peace laureate, welcomed Mr. Habibie's remarks. "We would be extremely pleased if Indonesia withdrew by January," he said. In a related development, the Indone-

sian armed forces promised to remain neutral in the June 7 elections, which are expected to be the most democratic elections in the country since the 1950s. Speaking in western Irian Jaya on

Wednesday, the army chief of staff, General Subagyo, said that military personnel were free to vote for any party of their choice.

'There will be no bargaining in the next general election," General Subagyo said, ruling out talks between political groups and the military, which in the past has backed the governing Golkar party.



gas canister fired by Indian riot policemen in Srinagar during a protest march and general strike Thursday.

BRIEFLY

Vajpayee to Visit Pakistan by Bus

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Pakistan confirmed Thursday that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India would make a historic bus trip here Feb. 20 that he sees as a confidence-building step for the two countries after decades

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Vajpayee had expressed a desire to come to Pakistan on the inaugural run of a bus service between the two countries and that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan had welcomed the

A statement by the Indian government called the 500-kilometer (310-mile) bus link between New Delhi and the Pakistani provincial capital of Lahore a measure toward normalizing relations. The two countries have fought three wars since they gained independence from Britain in 1947, and they heightened tensions with a series of nuclear tests

Anwar Is Defiant on Trial Curbs

KUALA LUMPUR — Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's former deputy prime minister, ignored a judge's repeated objections Thursday and continued allegations of a highlevel political conspiracy against him.

Mr. Anwar ignored repeated assertions by Judge Augustine Paul of the High Court that his testimony about conversations with his former mentor, Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, was irrelevant.

"It has to be relevant; it is my life," Mr. Anwar insisted at one point, noting that he had policy differences with Mr. Mahathir before he was fired last year as deputy prime minister and finance minister. "I disagreed, and now I am out," he said. "I have never seen such conspiracy and fabrication in this country."

Mr. Anwar, accused of abusing his power to cover up alleged sexual misdeeds, has testified for four days that he has proof that top associates of Mr. Mahathir tried to ruin him. Mr. Anwar was arrested Sept. 20, two weeks after he was fired by the prime minister.

Bangladesh General Strike Ends

DHAKA, Bangladesh — A national strike in Bangladesh that led to the deaths of six persons and paralyzed the country for three days ended late Thursday.

About 200 people were injured in clashes between opposition and government supporters, who fought with guns and bombs earlier in the day. The last person to die was Mohammed Yusuf, an opposition activist who was shot and killed near Chittagong's port only hours before the strike ended, the police said.

The strike began Tuesday and was scheduled to last 48 hours but was extended 12 hours after violence erupted between supporters of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the governing Awami League. (Reuters)

Critic's Role Fades, Burma Says

BANGKOK --- An additional 153 members of the political party of the Burmese opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, have resigned, official media sources reported on

The state-run New Light of Myanmar said 125 members in the southern city of Myeik and 28 members from the South Okkalapa district of Rangoon quit "because they no longer wished to participate in party politics."

The military government says more than 10,000 members of the National League for Democracy have voluntarily resigned, and more than 40 township party offices have been closed since September.

Singapore Quickly Denies An Assertion of Racism'

Indonesia President's Remark Touches a Nerve

By Michael Richardson Insernational Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Reported remarks by the president of Indonesia that Singapore is a country of "real racists" has triggered angry denials from an island-state that feels increasingly vulnerable as neighboring nations battle recessions far more painful than its own.

By telling Taiwan journalists in a re-cent interview in Jakarta that Singaporeans were "real racists" who did not allow minority Malays to be military officers, President B.J. Habibie touched a sensitive political nerve, officials and analysts said Thursday.

He appeared to be portraying Singa-pore — where ethnic Chinese dominate the population — as being hostile to people of Malay stock who form the majority in its two closest neighbors, Indonesia and Malaysia, both of them many times larger than Singapore.

"Singapore is worried that its relative prosperity is making it a target of the politics of envy," said a Singaporebased diplomat. The Singapore minister for Muslim affairs, Abdullah Tarmugi, himself a Malay, said Mr. Habibie's remarks,

which have not been denied, were "unfortunate, hurtful and baseless.' Yatiman Yusof, a Malay member of the governing party of Singapore, said that he suspected that the Indonesian leader's remarks were aimed at "un-

dermining the stability of a multiracial

Singapore. Chinese account for about 77 percent of Singapore's citizens, and Malays about 14 percent. Chinese are overwhelmingly non-Muslims, while nearly all Malays are Muslim. This pattern is

repeated in Indonesia and Malaysia. Analysts said that as social and political stresses intensify in the previously high-growth economies of Southeast Asia, officials are increasingly tempted to find external scapegoars for their domestic problems even at the cost of friendly relations.

Officials, and the media in their countries, are also highlighting the problems of neighboring countries as a way of warning their own people of potential dangers.

As a result, bilateral ties between members of the Association of South East Asian Nations have become strained - especially between Singapore and Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, Indonesia and Malaysia and the Philippines and Malaysia.

Such tensions are likely to increase, especially as Indonesia and probably Malaysia hold critical elections this year, the analysts said.

ation in Singapore was worse. "In Singapore, if you are a Malay, you can never become a military officer," he reportedly said. "They are the real racists, not here.

In his remarks, Mr. Habibic also said that the number of ethnic Chinese women raped in riots in May that led to the resignation of former President Suharro had been "exaggerated."

Although only a small minority in again population of more than 200 million, Indonesian Chinese have been repeated targets of mob attacks over their perceived wealth.

In fending off criticism of his government, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia said in a recent in-

Singapore's minister for Muslim affairs, himself a Malay, said that Mr. Habibie's remarks were 'hurtful and baseless.'

terview with the BBC World Service radio that Malaysia's political system, economic situation and race relations vere quite different from Indonesia's. 🌰 He said that his government had ensured that the development of indig-enous people in Malaysia kept pace with that of ethnic Chinese citizens.

"In Indonesia, they didn't do that," Mr. Mahathir said. "That is why the Indonesians attack the Chinese."

To disprove Mr. Habibie's assertion that there were no Malay officers in the Singapore military, The Straits Times of Singapore printed photographs Thursday of two such officers - one a lieutenant colonel; the other a captain.

In a separate editorial, it said that Indonesia's recovery was going to be an uphill struggle, both on the political and economic fronts.

"Politically, the Habibie government lacks popular support and finds it hard to rein in the growing lawlessness that has done much to damage the country's prospects," the newspaper said. "Corporate Indonesia is saddled with \$70 billion in foreign debts, and some of the government's policies to create and redistribute wealth have sparked off controversy, notably the attempt to build 'a people's economy' in which small and medium-size enterprises" owned by in-digenous Indonesians "get preferential treatment.

Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan of Singapore said recently that the almost daily reports from the region of demon-strations, protests, riots and violence were "a stark reminder to Singaporeans. In denying to the Taiwan journalists that Indonesia had any official policy of discrimination against its Chinese minority, Mr. Habibie said that the situ-

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BRIEFLY

Mir Mission at Risk

MOSCOW - The Mir space sta-

tion may be discarded as early as

August because investors who were

supposedly planning to fund it backed out, the Russian space chief

said Thursday.
The RKK Energia company,
which built and runs the 13-year old

station, said in December that it had

found a private sponsor to keep Mir

said Yuri Koptev, director of the

Flap Over Gibraltar

ly protested restrictions by Spain on

road and air traffic to and from

Gibraltar and plans to file a com-

plaint with European Union author-

MADRID — Britain has formal-

"It was just wishful thinking."

in orbit for three years.

Russian Space Agency.

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Singapore's minister for Muslim affairs, himself a Malay, said that Mr. Habibie's remarks were 'hurtful and baseless.'

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EUROPE

U.S. Keeping Vigil on Russian Trial of Jehovah's Witnesses

By Celestine Bohlen New York Times Service

MOSCOW - Seven years ago, Nikolai Cherevatov, then a Moscow University student, told his parents that his search for religion had led him to Jehovah's Witnesses, one of the fastestgrowing proselytizing religious groups

"They were very upset," recalled Mr. Cherevatov, now 31 and a follower of the religious community that is before a Cherevatov said. "I left my church, I Moscow court, accused of inciting religious discord and threatened with a ban on its activities.

Papa said they were agents of the American CIA who would give me a gun and tell me to shoot my parents if there was a war," he said. "Mama said no good could come from a close reading of

As a child in a Ukrainian village, Mr. Cherevatov spent Sunday mornings in the local Russian Orthodox church with his grandmother.

Later, when he joined the Young Communist League, he had to stop going

SAMARA, Russia — At least 22

one of the deadliest fires in post-Soviet by the blaze.

people were killed and scores were in-

Russia swept through a police station in

five-story Interior Ministry building. Several people jumped to their death.

Nearly three dozen people were hos-

People in Samara put the tentative death toll at 22. But with 32 people still

unaccounted for, most of whom were

working in upper-story offices, that fig-

Emergency ministry staff said 34

President Boris Yeltsin called for an

immediate inquiry, and he ordered the

the scene. The minister sent an advance

team and said he would follow Friday.

people were hospitalized following the

blaze, five in a serious condition.

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before finally being extinguished.

ure could rise.

The fire raged for almost 12 hours

The blaze broke out Wednesday at

the Volga industrial city of Samara.

22 Die and Many Are Missing

the fire. Local residents said they heard newspaper was also reported dead.

dawned in the ruins of the Soviet empire first significant attempt to use the law to early in this decade, he began exploring restrict worship.

anything that is not fours. "When I ask people what is so dan-

His journey began inside Russian Or-- a trajectory that has been repeated by hundreds of thousands of other Russian Christians, and set off alarms in the Russian Orthodox Church about inroads into its flock made by what its priests call 'totalitarian sects.

"The script is always the same," Mr. betrayed the beliefs of my forefathers, of my country. But nobody ever asks why I left the church. It was not fanaticism that led to this choice, it was common sense. Now I have a comparison to make."

the Orthodox Church kept pressures on In August, Alexei II, patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, called for a ban on proselytizing faiths, particularly

foreign ones that try to lure people away from the "religions of their ancestors. The case now before a Moscow civil

conversation with President Yeltsin.

consuming the entire building and fire-fighters attempting to winch ladders up

to stricken people engulfed in thick

"Something caught fire in a second-floor office," said one rescued woman,

Officials identified one of the dead as

tions, Colonel Alexander Sukhodeyev.

her face smeared in soot and ash.

Also watching will be Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who raised thodoxy, but in the end led him out of it the case with her Russian hosts during a are sure they are, anyway. But this is not has its eye on a law that links American rights problem. economic assistance to Russia to religious freedom.

If the judge agrees with the pros-ecutor, the Jehovah's Witnesses — an aggressively proselytizing community with 130,000 believers in Russia could lose their legal status and be banned in Moscow, where 10,000 followers reside. Technically, their national status would not be affected, but many fear that such a ruling would only en-A 1997 law on religion restricted non-traditional denominations and, after that, not only against the Jehovah's Wit-

> "If they are successful in this case. then it will be terrible," said Lyudmila Alexeyeva, president of the International Helsinki Federation, "because after that, they will feel free to attack other

The case now before a Moscow civil Mrs. Alexeyeva, long a campaigner court is being closely watched by refor human rights, said that "in a closed

gerous about the Jehovah's Witnesses," she said, "nobody can answer, but they the name of their "one true religion." recent visit, and the U.S. Senate, which a theological problem. It is a human literature disseminated by the Wit-

sidents were shuffled from trial to trial. conduct of every member of the sect."

"We cherish our truth," said Lena Sizhanova, 27, who joined the Jehovah's

Moscow district prosecutor, the Je-But as soon as religious freedom ligious and human rights groups as the society like Russia, people don't like hovah's Witnesses have violated the sion."

1997 law by preaching religious discrimination, breaking up families and withholding medical treatment --- all in After an exhaustive textual analysis of nesses' door-to-door proselytizers, the The atmosphere at a hearing of the prosecutors concluded that "over-

> "The sect has a strong anti-government, anti-social and anti-traditional as well as anti-Christian orientation," the

> More than 21 witnesses are prepared to testify to the damage allegedly wrought by the Jehovah's Witnesses on

their family lives and finances. Written testimony has been provided by a top expert from the Serbsky Center for Social and Forensic Psychiatry notorious in Soviet times for its "treatment" of dissidents - who found that 'the teaching and activity of Jehovah's Witnesses contain factors that may lead

ROME - Female lawmakers were

"Jeans: an alibi for rape," read the

The court on Wednesday overturned a

Mr. Cristiano argued that she had con-

The court accepted his argument, say-

ing it was impossible to take off

someone's jeans "without the collab-

oration of the person wearing them" and

that the woman must have cooperated.

Alessandra Mussolini, a deputy of the

rightist National Alliance and grand-

daughter of the dictator. "It offends the

dignity of women. Women are already

scared of reporting rapes — this just

"This ruling is shameful," said

Britain protested after the Spanish foreign minister, Abel Matutes, to neuroticism and a state of depressaid Wednesday that civilian aircraft bound for Gibraltar would be banned from Spanish airspace and that Gibraltar driving licenses would not be recognized. (AP) Protest in Rome

Russia 'Truce' Talks

MOSCOW - Russian leaders may draft an accord between Boris Yeltsin and his enemies in the Communist-dominated Parliament by next week, the Duma speaker, Gennadi Seleznyov, said Thursday.

Mr. Seleznyov was quoted by the Itar-Tass press agency as saying that lawmakers, cabinet officials and Yeltsin representatives would begin talks Monday. Unlike an earlier proposed truce, the new draft would not bar Mr. Yeltsin from disbanding Parliament and would not require lawmakers to drop impeachment proceedings, Mr. Seleznyov said. (AP)

Grave of Algerians?

PARIS — A mass grave that could contain remains of Algerians killed by French police at the time of the Algerian war for independence has been found by two journalists in a Paris suburb, the newspaper Humanite Hebdo reported Thursday. The remains, found at a former

dump site in Creteil, may be those of Algerians who took part in a demonstration in Paris on Oct. 17, 1961, the Communist weekly said. A police inquiry was ordered. (AFP)

ADVERTISEMENT

case on Wednesday, in a grimy court seers," both in Russia and abroad, "not building in a neighborhood north of the only control the spiritual environment of Kremlin, carried faint hints of Soviet the congregation, but also subject the times when political and religious dis- manner of life, thinking, psyche and

On Wednesday, more than 100 Jehovah's Witnesses in wool coats and soggy boots gathered silently outside the courtroom doors. Many said they were prosecutors said. prepared to wait as long as it took, even weeks, for the judge to reach a resolution

Witnesses along with her mother. "And they are trying to take it away. But you cannot forbid people's right to their faith because that right comes only from

According to the complaint filed by a



Georgina Dufoix, a former minister, arriving at the trial on Thursday. Television pictures broadcast by the private NTV channel showed flames

Fabius Denial in Blood Scandal

Agence France-Presse PARIS — Laurent Fabius, a former

French prime minister, denied putting financial considerations ahead of questions of public health as his trial for man-slaughter in a 1985 AIDS-tainted blood transfusion scandal continued Thursday.

interior minister, Sergei Stepashin, to the police station's chief of investiga-Mr. Fabius, Socialist prime minister The local head of public security, Major from 1984 to 1986, and his health and Mr. Stepashin said that criminal arson Pavel Korolyov, died after being taken 'could not be ruled out' as the cause of to a hospital. A journalist for a local fore a special court set up to try gov- about 1,000 of them have died.

erament members. Mr. Fabius, 52, is accused of delaying the licensing of a U.S. blood test to give time to the Pasteur Institute to develop its own test for domestic and foreign markets.

He said that "the idea that I could have subordinated public health decisions to Pasteur does not bear even the beginnings of the truth." About 4,500 people were social affairs ministers, Edmond Herve infected with HIV-tainted blood transand Georgina Dufoix, are appearing be-fusions during the period in question, and

Miss Mussolini said the protest would

makes it worse.'

continue until the decision was overruled by the Constitutional Court. Center-left deputies called on Parliament to take up the ruling.

ICN Pharmaceuticals. Inc.

ne: 714/545-0100 FAX: 714/556-0131 Telex: 67-0413

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON

President William J. Clinton The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

February 10, 1999

Dear Mr. President

In a brazen and unlawful move, the government of Slobodan Milosevic, in order to avoid its contractual obligations aggregating more than \$175 million, has employed massive police power to forcibly seize the property and assets of an American company, ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc., located in a suburb of Belgrade. ICN's management team has been forcibly expelled from the factory and offices and is not being permitted to reenter. A Serbian government force of 200 heavily armed police and paramilitary personnel has seized control of the premises and locked out the rightful American owners.

This action of the Serbian government is wholly illegal. There can be no doubt that this was an economic and politically motivated power play intended to foment anti-American sentiment on the eve of the Kosovo peace talks in France.

This arrogant action cannot stand unchallenged. ICN has sued the Milosevic regime in the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia. It will pursue all legal remedies available elsewhere as well. This cannot be left to the Serbian courts, which are controlled by the Serbian government.

I call upon the United States government and you, Mr. President, to condemn this arbitrary seizure and nationalization of American property and the humiliation and violation of the human rights of ICN employees in Serbia. I call upon you to demand that the premises of the ICN factory and the ICN offices in Serbia be immediately returned to their rightful American owners and management team. Moreover, I ask that you do everything within your power to insure the safety of our employees, who are at risk in Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

William Clinton President of the United States The White House

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Olympic Scandal Grows

Reform the IOC

The ethics panel drafted to investigate the role of vote-buying in Salt Lake City's successful bid for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games has expanded the scandal's known topography. Although the panel had neither subpoena power nor its own auditors, it still managed to implicate a wider array of Olympic officials in the bribery transactions and to penetrate some of the ruses used to hide the payments. Its efforts need to be followed up by a more forceful investigation.

The panel identified 10 more International Olympic Committee members suspected of trading their votes for money and other lucrative benefits provided by Salt Lake City boosters. That raises the total to 24 members who

have now been linked to the scandal.

The panel also found evidence that the U.S. Olympic Committee helped Salt Lake City organizers deliver on a promise to train Sudanese athletes in return for Sudan's vote, thus implicating Olympic officials at the national level.

But the panel, appointed by the trust-ees of the Salt Lake City organizing committee, was circumspect in pointing fingers in Utah. Its report suggests that the unethical conduct was the handiwork primarily of two or three bad apples on the Salt Lake City com-mittee and concludes that the higherups, the trustees, were out of the loop about direct payments. It characterized the misdeeds as unethical but not criminal. Only inquiries by the U.S. Justice Department and other authorities with subpoena power will be credible enough to render such judgments.

Nevertheless, the investigative leads contained in the panel's report should strengthen the hand of reformers with-

Bribery Is the Rule

The Salt Lake City Olympic Organizing Committee, with the release of a 300-page report on Tuesday, can now fairly claim to have made a credible, if incomplete, effort to investigate itself. The same cannot be said of the International Olympic Committee, which seems as always dedicated to damage control and self-preservation. The U.S. Olympic Committee, too, seems stuck in a state of denial.

You may recall that the IOC, the unaccountable governing body of the Olympic Games, conducted an investigation last month into allegations that cities seeking the ostensibly lucrative privilege of hosting Summer or Winter Games had bought the votes of committee members. Not at all, the IOC concluded. "Nothing we saw amounted to a quid pro quo, the purchase and sale of a vote," said Richard Pound, the IOC vice president who conducted the inquiry. It nonetheless accepted the resignation of three members and urged the resignation of six more who benefited, Mr. Pound suggested, from Salt Lake City's excessive "willingness to please."

Now the Salt Lake City inquiry has identified two dozen committee members who improperly accepted gifts for themselves, their relatives or their associates — a solid fifth of the IOC. Even this probably is not the whole story, since the Utah ethics panel did not have subpoena powers, and several key actors did not cooperate with the investigation. Nonetheless, the panel was able to document more than \$1.2

in the IOC and major corporations that spend hundreds of millions on sponsorships and ads and thus underwrite much of the \$1.45 billion cost of staging the Winter Games. Both sets of stakeholders should demand that the IOC hire an independent, internationally respected law firm and auditors to take over the investigation of Salt Lake City and all other abuses in the bidding process in recent years.

These outsiders should propose structural changes to transform the IOC from a secretive club accountable to no one into a body that is representative of the world's nations, democratic in its selection of venues and transparent in its business dealings.

Like publicly traded corporations, the International Olympic Committee, with its ever growing economic power. needs annual audits by outside examiners and strict conflict-of-interest rules. It also needs to clean our the management team that tolerated the bribe-taking culture; only then can it hope to rebuild its credibility. A ritual vote of confidence in Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, by his minions next month will only further damage the Olympic movement.

The John Hancock insurance company has concluded that the scandal has devalued the Olympic rings and the value of the Games for advertisers. While it remains an Olympic sponsor, it is removing the rings from its next annual report, stationery and other material where feasible. Its cancellation of negotiations to place about \$20 million in commercials on NBC during the Winter Games contains a not so subtle message: Corporate America can, and should, bring its collective clout to bear in reforming the IOC now.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

million in questionable payments for trips to Disney World and the Super Bowl, family vacations, cosmetic surgery, draperies and furniture, dogs, air tickets and more. There were jobs and scholarships for IOC members' children and spouses. And there was plenty of good, old-fashioned cash.

For six months prior to the IOC vote awarding the 2002 Winter Games to Salt Lake City, for example, the organizing committee sent \$1,000 per month to Sudan's IOC representative, the panel found. Afterward, the committee urged the U.S. Olympic Committee to help pay for Sudanese athletes' training. "Seems to me a deal is a deal and the Sudan delivered," the USOC's executive director for administration, Tom Wilkinson, cheerfully agreed in an e-mail. "We may need the Sudan again in the future. Don't burn bridges." A quid pro quo? Perish the thought. A top U.S. official said on Wednesday, "It seems like it was handled appropriately.

This seems to be the Olympic way. Find out as little as possible, disclose less and admit nothing. Did Japanese officials do the same, or worse, to win the 1998 Winter Games? Let's not ask. Did Australians pay \$35,000 apiece to two delegates on the eve of the vote awarding Sydney the 2000 summer games — a vote that Sydney won by two? "Everything was in order according to IOC rules," says Jacques Rogge, a senior IOC member.
The more we learn, the more it

seems Mr. Rogge was correct. Bribery

is the Olympic rule.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Civilian Intervention Unit

As things stand, America and its allies have only two choices when ethnic massacres occur overseas. One is to issue warnings to the warring parties. which are often ignored. The second is to respond with some kind of military force. We suggest a third option. We need to create a Civilian In-

tervention Unit to intervene before military action is necessary. It would have a permanent core of workers and the capability to draw on larger numbers as needed. Operations would vary from election monitoring to disaster relief to peacekeeping.

A permanent unit would be an al-ternative to the team of "verifiers" that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe established and sent to Kosovo. The verifiers are not part of any permanent unit, and most of

them have no prior experience in peacekeeping.

A permanent unit of trained monitors is needed to observe elections, oversee the control and destruction of armaments, conduct forensic investigations of war crimes, mediate and arbitrate. These requirements are too frequent and too specialized for the world to continue to rely on temporary missions - which, once over, are essentially cast aside. Tough security backup would be essential, but that could consist of a police force accustomed to interacting with civilians.

Creating a permanent unit would not

be easy. There is no precedent, and the bureaucracies in Washington and Europe seem to lack imagination as they wrestle with the crises that dom-

inate the modern age.

-- Daniel Plesch and Julianne
Smith, in The Washington Post.

Herald Cribune

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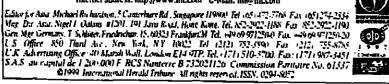
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'Strong' Euro? Growth and Jobs Would Be Better

DARIS - The birth of the euro has been the occasion for many columns of journalistic analysis heralding the nascent currency as a "chal-lenge" to the dollar. Mostly this is nonsense. To the extent that it has real content, the challenge lies not in the 'strong" euro defined by its champions as high in value relative to the dollar, but in a "weak" one.

The most conventional challenge is one of prestige. Were financial accounts and statistics translated into euros instead of dollars, euro holders could feel proud. This might be made to seem meaningful by a de Gaulle, but there is none on the scene.

More serious is that if the euro begins to substitute for the dollar as a transactions and reserve currency, dollar holdings and dollar-denominated obligations will decrease, the United States will have to raise interest rates, and the American economy will suffer while Europe gains. There is some truth in this. The question is of its importance.

Since the 1980s, saving by American individuals and firms has been low. Some economists have warned that because saving equals investment in national income accounts, investment would fall and American economic progress would fall with it. Such contentions are shot through

By Robert A. Levine

fallen, since it has been supported by the inflow of foreign funds. This has been financed by the inflow of foreign exports; the balance of trade has turned "against" the United States. In mercantilist terms. Europe has thus succeeded and America has failed. But the real result is that the United States has prospered compared with Europe.

Visible signs of the investment inflow have been purchases of Chrysler and other firms by Europeans, and earlier the wild Japanese speculations in American real estate. Increased European ownership of the American economy may be a long-run political-economic worry, but it causes less high-pitched concern than did the feared Japanese takeover of the '80s.

More imminent, in any case, is the possibility that the move to the euro will engender a move away from foreign investment in the United States. That could happen if the investment is really based on reserve holdings and other financial magnitudes. Fortunately, it is not.

Dairnler-Benz did not build plants in the United States and then purchase Chrysler, Bertelsmann did not buy up American publishers, and British Vod-

with. The major motivation has been that the vigorous American economy has been where the action is. A shift

toward the euro may affect that marginally, but no more.

The relative strength of the American economy has a number of causes, including the greater U.S. structural flexibility - fewer regulations, lower taxes, less government dirigisme - to which it is ordinarily attributed. More important, however, is the pragmatic exploratory culture that has enabled Americans to take much faster advantage of the information revolution on which the world's economic growth is now based. The reasons for this deserve

much more investigation than they

have received.

Some European economists have been critical of the decade-long single focus of European central banks and finance ministries on squeezing down inflation and government deficits to meet the Maastricht criteria for monetary union, thus pushing unemploy-ment above 10 percent. These economists contend that Federal Reserve policy, which has controlled inflation without stifling growth, deserves much credit for U.S. success.

The result of the Maastricht squeeze has been a euro strong at birth, in the mercantilist sense. And now those who with flaws, but, in the event, invest-ment in the U.S. economy has not Airtouch just because the Europeans favor the "challenge" to the dollar by

had dollars they didn't know what to do this euro want to continue the tight monetary and fiscal policies that brought it about.

In doing this, however, they will not only keep growth down and unemployment high. They will make Europe vulnerable to external downdrafts, whether from Asia and Latin America or from an inevitable American slowdown. Then unemployment can go up even higher, and the political foundations of monetary union and its member governments will shiver.

Needed instead are low interest rates and fiscal stimulus to restore European growth, cut unemployment and provide European voters with the security that will allow needed structural change.

Such policies would lead to a euro in the conventional sense. But Europe would invest in Europe, the United States would be forced to support its own investment. and both sides of the Atlantic would compete on paths of faster growth rather than of mercantilist constriction of domestic economies in order to ex-

port more across the Atlantic.

That would be the real challenge. Then we could all deal with the serious problems in East Asia and Eurasia.

The writer, an economist and farmer official in the U.S. executive and legislative branches, contributed this to the International Herald Tribune.

One Side in Japan Keeps Blocking Stimulation of Demand

TOKYO - Japan's eco-I nomic conservatives are at it again. Fresh from their success in pushing the economy into its present misery, they want to add to the plight by having the Bank of Japan refuse to buy up the surplus government bonds needed to fund

economic recovery.

The problem with the Japanese economy is simple. Ever since the collapse of the late 1980s economic boom, consumers' post-1970s bias against spending has heightened, and this has hit investment. Meanwhile, yen appreciation hit exports. Lack of demand is a cancer eating out the very heart of a once robust economy.

By Gregory Clark

By Flora Lewis

By Rashid I. Khalidi confront the issue of transition

But even Japanese consumers can delay spending for

only so long. For a time in the mid-'90s as spending picked up, there was a good chance of the recovery in land and share prices needed to neutralize the nation's bad bank debt problem. Indeed, in the three years to 1997 Japan was leading the other Group of Seven nations in GNP growth.

But then the economic conservatives took over. Convinced that Reaganite-Thatcherite reforms had powered the recoveries in the U.S. and British economies, they set out to cut government spending, re- mediate stimulatory effects.

vamp the tax system and push weak financial institutions into

bankruptcy. Consumers and investors took fright. The bad debt problem raised its ugly head. The economy went into a tailspin.

The politicians soon realized the mistake and switched to fiscal expansion. But with more bad advice from conservatives and the United States, they concentrated on tax cuts, which in recession-hit Japan were bound to end up adding to surplus savings rather than expanded government spending. which if done wisely has im-

But either way, the nation was bound to end up with large Bank of Japan stick faithfully fiscal deficits that would have to be financed with large bond issues, which, if placed on the bond markets, would tend to raise interest rates and choke off any incipient recovery.

The obvious answer is to have the cash-laden Bank of Japan buy up some of the bonds. But the economic conservatives complain that this

would be inflationary.
In an economy facing severe spiral deflation, the chances of inflation becoming a problem seem about as likely as a hypothermia victim given a shot of brandy becoming an alcoholic. But the conserva-

tives and their friends in the to their out-of-date dogmas. and say "no." The United States, in the

form of Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, and some politicians in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party realize the need for that shot of brandy. If they fail to prevail. Japan would seem headed for yet another downturn, dragging much of the Asian and world economy with it.

The writer, a former Australian diplomat and longtime resident of Japan, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribunc.

A Good Rambouillet Deal Would Buy Time for Change

PARIS — The new element in the Kosovo talks now under way at Rambouillet near Paris was underlined by President Jacques Chirac in his formal welcoming speech. It is that Europe can no longer tolerate war on its continent.

This is not so obvious as it may seem. True, there is about containing the violence, redressing imbalance or letting them fight it out, as was regularly heard during the Bosnian

war until an accord was forced

CHICAGO — The late King Hussein grew up in

the shadow of his grandfather

Abdullah's ambitions in Pal-

estine. The new monarch of

Jordan, another Abdullah, 37,

was a child when Israel oc-

cupied the West Bank, and for

his entire adult life has re-

garded Jordan as bounded by the Jordan River.

Hussein ruled the West Bank for 15 years before he lost it to the Israelis in the

1967 war. But for his son the

fate of Jordan may not seem so

bound up with the fate of Pal-

estine. As a representative of a new generation, he may be able to take a fresh look at the

relationship between Palestin-

Jordan is integrated into so-

ciety and dominates the eco-

nomy, while East Bank Jord-

anians control the army, the

security services and the up-

per reaches of the govern-ment. Palestinians in Jordan

are included in some respects

and excluded in others, tied to

the country and yet bound to

As long as the status of Pal-

estine is in limbo, the situation

will remain unstable, with the

majority of Jordan's citizens

living in constant tension with

In facing this problem, King Abdullah has to denl

with the legacy of two crucial

The first was in 1956-1957,

when Jordan was ruled for the

decisions made by his father.

their homeland (and their rela-

tives) across the river.

the Hashemite regime.

The Palestinian majority in

ians and Jordanians.

at Dayton in 1995. And there is a new, if un-announced, deadline to end the fighting in Kosovo — the Washington summit to celebrate the 50th anniversary of NATO in April. Members agree that they can hardly launch the alliance on its new

mission of peacekeeping and collective security against the background of this war. But there is no real basis for

who consider Kosovar resistance mere terrorism, and the Kosovars, who see no solution crisy of threat. but independence. The only possibility for "success" will be a compro-

mise imposed by the outside powers with the understanding that it is temporary.

I put "success" in quotes

because all involved are aware that any accord can be no more than a gamble on buying time - maybe for a change in the Belgrade regime, maybe a con-solidation of Kosovar politics. maybe some kind of larger regional understanding.

Jordanians Will Need Democracy

visers and from the great

powers that supported him,

the young King Hussein re-

sponded to a coup attempt

by crushing the fledgling de-

Only recently did he permit

a pale version of parliamen-

tary rule to emerge in Jordan, with severely limited powers.

The country's authoritarian

system has excluded resident

Palestinians from power — an

injustice that they are unlikely

to tolerate once their status

either as Jordanians or as Pal-

estinians has been finally de-

ian intifada, Hussein re-

nounced Jordan's claim to the

West Bank, enabling the Palestinians to make their own

unimpeded claim to self-de-

termination. This forced sen-

sible Israelis to admit that Jordan could not serve as a

proxy for the Palestinians,

with whom they now had to

Hussein's move succeeded

in pushing the two sides to-

ward peace talks, but it also

confirmed that Jordan's in-

ternal politics, like its external relations, could never be sta-

bilized until the Palestine

The absence of peace has

been a pretext for the absence

of democracy in many Middle

Eastern countries, Jordan in-

cluded. Whenever the Pales-

tinians and Israelis finally ad-

question was resolved.

In 1988, after the Palestin-

mocracy.

termined

deal directly.

This is all very vague because nothing has really been thought through. But reliance on ambiguity to hide the fric-

agreement between the Serbs, tion, as in Bosnia, would only increase the bitterness of disillusion and expose the hypo-The idea of bombing into accepting the Contact Group's plan for Kosovo is weird. There are no effective

targets, as there were in Bosnia when NATO force took out local Serbian tanks and artillery em-Seroian tanks and armiery em-placements. Bombing Serbia proper, just to show that it can be done, would make the needed political resolution more, not less, difficult to find.

Besides, the Russian prime minister, Yevgeni Primakov. has said that his country is

to full democracy. The sur-vival of his kingdom may

reforms, he may not be able to rely, as his father did, on

powerful outside backers. The

United States has rarely acted

to foster democracy in the

Arab world, preferring au-

thoritarian regimes that do Washington's bidding.

aspirations for democracy,

which the new king would be

wise to heed. This may require

him to ignore the advice of

powerful friends.
Similarly, the establishment of a mutually acceptable

relationship with the emerg-

ing Palestine will require the new king to consider the in-terests of his own people and

King Abdullah rules a

small, poor country with few

resources and potent neigh-bors. He certainly cannot ig-

nore these iron constraints.

But if he can transcend

them and achieve two objec-

tives, democracy and better

ties with the Palestinians in-

side and outside the kingdom.

he will build on the most valu-

able parts of Hussein's legacy.

and achieve something that

Center for International Stud-

ies at the University of Chi-

cago, is author of "Palestin-ian Identity" and advised the Palestinian delegation to the Mideast peace talks from 1991

10 1993. He contributed this

comment to The New York

his father never could.

not those of others.

But Jordanians have strong

If he pushes for democratic

hang on the outcome.

"categorically opposed to the ulated province, but needs the use of military force" against appearance of international Forum in Davos. Relations between

United States and Russia are at a particularly bad point at the moment - not, as some Americans argue, because of the coming expansion of NATO, which Moscow has accepted, but because of Moscow's sense that Washington has lost interest in good relations.

The growing right-wing political demand to revise or junk the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in order to build Amer-. ican missile defenses is the latest and most serious irritant.
Insult is added to injury when American politicians argue that the treaty was made with a

country that doesn't even exist any longer." Russia has sol-emnly committed itself to Soviet obligations, and in any case practically all Washington-Moscow treaties were signed with the Soviet Union, and the United States wants and needs to maintain them. Yet Mr. Primakov has in-

dicated that Russian troops might join some NATO forces in Kosovo if they are sent to support unarmed international monitors. This may be the key to Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic reversing his ban on foreign troops in Serbia, of which Kosovo is a part.

There is something so surreal about the whole allied timetable and plan for breaking the impasse that it gives weight to the widespread Belgrade rumor that Mr. Milosevic really wants out of the ethnic-Albanian-pop-

appearance of international Serbia. "It has no prospects, it compulsion to cover him can bring no good results," he against attacks from his own said at the World Economic nationalists. He did abandon Serb-populated Krajina and Eastern Slavonia, in Croatia, without a

peep, after dire declarations.

His central interest is main-

taining his own power. If he is secretly seeking a formula to back out and try to bring Serbia some relief from the economic pain of war and sanctions, so much the better. But it should be understood as a stopgap, not as a real solution. It will not change the fact that Mr. Milosevic was the cause of the problem, not its helpful disentangler, and that permanent

still depend upon new politics. Veron Matic, who heads the independent Radio B-92 in Belgrade, points out that "there is little understanding of the importance of independent media

improvement in the area will

in getting peace."
The last independent radio in Pristina was banned last summer, and no one said a word. The province has the world's highest concentration of satel-lite dishes, Mr. Matic says, because there are no local media that people trust. But foreign broadcasts cannot have the same impact as reliable local news.

Those attempting to use the new technology to spread in-dependent information deserve full support. They may not be able to stop wars, but if the fighting can be stopped they are as important as NATO troops in preventing a renewal and forcing acceptance of the new pan-European demand for peace. Flora Lewis

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

ing dared to discuss Herr Haby and the Imperial mustache, Haby is the Imperial barber. I paid a visit to Haby and underwent what the Kaiser undergoes. The mustache is placed at an angle beneath a terrible kind of gag known as a "bartbinde." Before being placed in the "bartbinde" the mustache is combed and saturated with the "It has come!" water. Then the mustache is pushed upwards beneath the gag. which is held back by being attached to the ears. When the gag is removed two heated irons are in readiness. When nigh completion, the mustache had assumed an attitude contrary to what nature had intended.

1924: Tut Revealed

LUXOR — The Valley of the

1899: Imperial Barber the treasure of one of the greatest Pharaohs that lie buried there, to-BERLIN — Highly funny is the denunciation of a paper for haven the royal dead. When the lid is raised from the sarcophagus that holds the body of King Tutankhamen, the hand of time will have been turned back, momentarily, for more than two thousand years and what still remains of the mortal part of that great monarch will lie exposed to view. Many Archaeologists are here and are tense with

1949: Stolen Diner

NEW YORK - Frederick Savarese rushed into a police station yesterday and shouted "Somebody stole my restaurant. It's gone. It's gone. My restaurant.

Somebody stole it. "It was true. The restaurant was a trailer lunch counter known as the "Vet Dinette" and during the night LUXOR — The Valley of the Tombs, which last year gave up a car and drove away.

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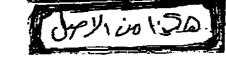
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OPINION/LETTERS

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A Simmering Rage in New York

NEW YORK — The woman stood outside the tiny vesubule on Wheeler Avenue in the Bronx where Amadou Diallo had been killed in an astonishing barrage of gunfire unleashed by four of Mr. Diallo. His death is seen by undercover cops. A cold wind was blowing down the quiet street. Candles flickered on the floor of the unlocked vestibule. Flowers had also been placed on the floor.

The woman made the sign of the cross and then wiped tears from her face. But she could not stop crying.

I was standing a few feet away with a notebook and a pen. The woman turned to me, still wiping her eyes, and said, "For the first time in my life I feel hatred."

The next day, at a rally in Foley Square in Manhattan, a brokerage house employee named Gordon Andrews said: "This (expletive) has got to stop. They are killing us and nobody is hearing us."

A lawyer from Brooklyn who stood on the steps of the state Supreme Court building to watch the rally told me: "There's a storm brewing, and it's a big one.

People are fed up. I'm fed up."

I do not know if Mayor Rudolph Giuliani realizes it, but there are limits to the amount of abuse that black New Yorkers will accept from violent and racist police officers. And those limits are

By Bob Herbert

Black New Yorkers are in a fury over the cold-blooded killing most blacks as simply the latest tragic manifestation of the ruthless and humiliating treatment of ethnic minorities that is part of the daily routine of so many cops in New York.

Apologists for the Police Department can try to sugar-coat it if they like. Yes, it is true that crime has dropped precipitously. Yes, it

Many blacks feel that they are living in a police state.

is true that most cops are solid citizens. But it is also true that there is a frightening number of violent, racist, sadistic and in some cases homicidal police of-ficers who spend much of their time terrorizing people.

And that behavior is widely

seen by black New Yorkers as being tolerated if not condoned by Mr. Ğiuliani.

How gruesome has the situation become? Some parents and civic leaders are teaching black and Hispanic children to quickly

display their hands during any en-counter with the police, like little criminals

This is to show that the youngsters are not armed and therefore should not be blown into eternity at age 10 or 15 or 20 by a triggerhappy police officer.

There has been a long epidemic of outrages — killings, the invasions by rampaging cops of the apartments of innocent families, the routine beating and harassment of young men and boys, the curses and the racial slurs, the arrests on phony charges of in-dividuals who dare to object to abusive treatment, and more.

Last summer the mayor ordered an entire section of Harlem locked down because he objected to a rally that was being held. There is a widespread feeling among black New Yorkers that

they are living in a police state, and that many of the cops are a threat to the very lives of their children. The anger and resentment over this is growing by the day. And increasingly the resentment is being directed not just toward the police and the mayor but toward white New Yorkers in general. who are not subjected to the same

levels of brutality and harassment. 'I am scared to death," said a former city official, "that this division between blacks and whites. this schism, is growing so large

as they relate to the blacks and the police. And therefore the whites are as much to blame as Rudy and the police." I do not believe that most white New Yorkers condone police mis-

that it can't be repaired." He ad-

ceive that the white community

largely condones Rudy's policies

"African-Americans per-

conduct, but there have not been nearly enough white voices raised against the atrocities committed by the police. This unfortunate silence is, in-

deed, a form of encouragement. The police officers who killed Mr. Diallo have had several days now to craft their story. The mayor and the police commissioner are doing their public-relations thing, offering condolences, ordering meaningless training, waiting for the press to turn its attention elsewhere. Meanwhile, black New York-

ers are seething. The New York Times

Letters intended for publica-tion should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editine. We cannot be responsible for the return of

unsolicited manuscripts.

The Reporters, It Was Felt, Were Missing the Point

By Richard L. Fox

dents, faculty members and administrators packed a lecture hall scandal broke?" And then: "How at Union College here to hear the Reverend Jesse Jackson give an address on the first day of Black History Month. This was a huge turnout for a college of only 2,000 students. The local press was there, as were the Albany affiliates for the television networks.

Mr. Jackson spoke with passion about the dilapidated condition of inner city public schools, the high number of children living in

MEANWHILE

poverty and the expanding prison population. He noted that the civil rights movement was stalled along economic, not racial, lines. One thing Mr. Jackson did not dwell on was the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Jackson gave a masterful performance. His oratory was powerful, and he was interrupted many times by applause. Members of the mostly white audience responded to his passion — not an easy task in this cynical time, After the speech, Mr. Jackson

took questions from the press. The members of the press asked only six questions. The first was whether Mr. Jackson would run for president in 2000. The next re-porter asked, "What do think about what is going on in Washington?"
The next question was, "Do you think the president should be re-

SCHENECTADY, New York moved from office?" The next: "Have you and President Clinton gotten closer since the Lewinsky would you like to see the scandal in Washington resolved?" And finally: "What team did you cheer for in the Super Bowl?"

The journalists in attendance were clearly taking their cues from the national press corps. Not one of them asked about the substance of the speech. They did not seem to care what impression they made on the audience.

When it was the students' turn, the tenor of the questions changed. The first student asked, "How can we help to bridge the economic gap you spoke of? The next asked: Martin Luther King used to refer to a 'beloved community.' What does that term mean to you?"

But the highlight of the evening came when the next student spoke. You just gave a very powerful and moving speech, and the press asked you only about the scandal in Washington," the young man said. "What does that say to you." The hall erupted in the loudest applause of the evening.

No one wanted to hear about Monica Lewinsky. Everyone wanted to think about serious issues. The message the audience was sending was clear: The press is speaking for itself, not for us.

The writer, assistant professor of political science at Union College, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

An Unarmed Man Is Shot and the City Yawns

NEW YORK — It is getting to be not much of a stretch to suggest that if the New York City police recreated the St. Bartho-Iomew's Day Massacre (thousands of French Protestants killed), Mayor Rudolph Giuliani would point out that most cops do a good job, Al Sharpton, a black activist, would lead a demonstration down to City

Hall, and the majority of New

Yorkers would, as they have in recent times, yawn in indifference. It is well-known that for crime to remain low, the cops have to be able to do their thing, which, most recently, involved a West African immigrant named Amadou Diallo, 22, who was moved down in the Bronx last week.

Four policemen from the storied Street Crimes Unit fired an incredible 41 bullets at him, of which 19 hit their mark. When it was all over, it was determined that Mr. Diallo was armed only with a black complexion. He apparently had no weapon.

By Richard Cohen

Almost instantly, everyone took their assigned roles. The mayor called the killing "a tragedy," Mr. Sharpton organized a demonstration, some civil libertarians voiced concern about "cowboy cops," but the rest of the city went on with its business — which is the business of making money.

I should spare New York some typical of other cities. It has made a basic decision which goes like Specifically, that means it will

not too closely inquire how the Street Crimes Unit, with less than 2 percent of the police department's officers, makes 40 percent of the gun arrests. They have to be aggressive, and occasionally something goes wrong. Let us talk about China and hu-

man rights. When we do, someone

delivers a lecture about how we Americans and they see things differently. Americans are concerned with the individual — "All men are created equal," etc. — while the Chinese care only about society as a whole. Individuals do not matter, which is why the Chinese lock up people for mere political dissent, and we Americans, in sincere horror, voice our indignation.

The alleged station house torture in Brooklyn of an Abner Louima, of my acrid sarcasm because it is the persistent rise in complaints against the police, the excessively high rate of shootings by Washthis: In the greater cause of justice, ington's Metropolitan Police, the it will put up with some injustice. . incredible enthusiasm for capital punishment — all these suggest not that the authorities are out of control but that they are doing precisely what people want We have reversed Voltaire's

venerable dictum. On the streets or on death row, it is better to risk that an innocent man will die than for a single guilty one to walk free. The Washington Post

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indonesia's Military

Regarding "New Test for Indonesia" (Feb. 10):

The Indonesian armed forces are portrayed as a stabilizing force during a potentially destabilizing election. Is this the case? A government study concluded

that the military contributed directly to the riots in Jakarta in May. Street protests since then have focused on ending militarysponsored violence. In East Java, the murders of more than 100 Muslim clerics in September and October are widely assumed to have had military backing. Many Indonesians view the violence in Jakarta, Kupang and Ambon in November. December and January as deliberately instigated by security personnel.

The fear is not that the military will be unable to control violenceprone political parties in 1999, but that the armed forces will be unwilling to relinquish their role as the enforcers of a predetermined political outcome.

GEORGE FORD. New Canaan, Connecticut.

Turkey and Europe

Regarding "Phantom Alliance Reshapes the Mideast" (Opinion, Feb. 5) by William Safire:

Mr. Safire states that Turkey is being "unfairly kept out of the European Union by Germany and

He is entirely wrong. It is the behavior of Turkey itself that prevents its acceptance by Europe. Turkey's dismal record on human rights, its deficit on democracy and its treatment of its neighbors are the main stumbling blocks barring Turkey's road toward the European Union.

As the EU has stated on many occasions, Turkey, like any other aspiring country, must meet the criteria for membership.

ALEXANDER IOANNIDIS. Athens.

King Hussein's Death The Middle East has lost a great

leader with the death of King Hussein of Jordan. Like Yitzhak Rabin, the king proved brave enough to renounce war with his neighbor and work for peace between Arabs Even though Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu paid a vibrant tribute to King Hussein at his funeral, the two men are not comparable. There is a world of difference between a warrior turned healer and a hawk posing

BERNARD HENRY. Garches, France.

فلتكن ذكراه مباركة للأبد

May his memory forever be a blessing

ברוך זכרו לעד

In humility before the God who created us all, we mourn with the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan the passing of His Majesty King Hussein, a ruler of extraordinary wisdom and courage, who lifted the eyes of the Middle East and led his people to a new vision of peace and reconciliation.

> We will honor his beloved memory by our work together in the cause he so bravely championed.



The American Jewish Committee David A. Harris Bruce M. Ramer

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By Matt Steinglass

We needed a place to check our e-mail, and our Dutch hostess offered information infrastructure." A recent reto take us to the nearest cybercafé.

rets. Tables and wicker chairs spilled out of the fortress's broad gate: a whiteaproned waiter circulated with fat glasses of Duvel beer. Inside, under a vaulted ceiling, people chatted and sipped koffie verkeerd (café au lait, Duich style), waiting for a space at a long table with a peaked ridge down the center. The computers were almost invisible, their screens built unobtrusively into the table's slanting wooden face.

My friend and I half smiled in emburrassment: we were thinking of the nerdy, unpleasant cybercafés we knew in New York, full of tacitum patrons huddled over screens. This place seemed so sociable! Why, my friend wondered, couldn't new media in America be more like this — "so out in the open, so . . ."
So public. In the United States, new

media tend to be a private affair. Whether you're e-mailing. Web surfing or playing computer games, in the office or right under your feet. You descend to it at home, you're usually doing it alone. In Amsterdam, using computers is more after—no need to take your luggage off social. There are public Internet kiosks the luggage cart. Getting off at Amon the city streets. On the waterfront. teenagers congregate in the plaza of the in the center of the city. New Metropolis, a year-old interactive technology museum. Even Amsterdam's Web site, www.amsterdam.nl. features eight rooms custom-designed by information that ranges from arts events to real estate to business regulations.

MSTERDAM — Last spring. Economic Affairs. said: "The Dutch and bands perform in the Winston King-I was in Amsterdam with a government is investing tens of millions dom nightclub, their shows broadcast friend, a "new media" artist. of dollars in information-technology research institutes and in improving the port by the French branch of the Aspen She led us across a wide cobblestone Institute noted that these efforts have led quare toward the Waag, a late-medieval. American information-technology enbrick fortress studded with circular tur- trepreneurs to view Amsterdam as "the ideal European home base."

It's not surprising that the Dutch devote their technological efforts to the owes its very existence to huge publicworks projects. As one new-media artist here put it: "It's the dikes!" The country's national character is defined by public technology — from the obvious (canals, windmills, dikes) to the more subtle (bike lanes and hothouse tornatoes). At their best, these technologies make the Netherlands feel like a good Web site: attractive, well-organized and incredibly easy to get around.

CLEVER GADGETS On my return trip in August. I noticed well-designed infrastructure and clever gadgets the moment I got off the plane. At Schiphol Airport, the train to Amsterdam, Rotterdam or wherever you happen to be going, passes via a stairless, conveyor-belt-like escalsterdam Central Station puts you smack

I had reserved a room on line at The

ter of new-media technology. Jan van the artists DNA. The hotel also bills Diepen, spokesman for the Ministry of itself as a gallery and arts venue: poets over the Internet via Webcam.

On arrival, I encountered a glitch: The supposedly new-media-savvy Winston had accidentally rented out my room because the computer was down. Would I mind staying in the Schiffmacher Room, designed by a tattoo artist?

That afternoon I went out to check my e-mail. (A number of hotels, such as the Owl, have e-mail facilities, but not The Winston.) Had I wanted to take public transit, I could have made use of the national transit number. From anywhere in the Netherlands, for about 50 cents a minute, you can dial 06-92-92, and give them the address of where you are and where you want to go. Within a minute or two, a real human being - not a machine - will tell you exactly which trains, trams and buses you should take to get there - down to the minute the bus arrives at your local stop.

But I was biking. I pedaled off toward a cybercafé in an old canal-lined neighborhood called the Jordaan.

The Mad Processor is in a quiet canal house. It features a circular table covered with computer monitors connected by a no seats, the keyboards are angled unhigh-speed network. People come by the dozens to play networked games. In the United States, these games are generally prefer to meet their opponent in person, from? A canal!") and shout at them across the table.

Later, on my way to dinner, I stopped Winston, an inexpensive hotel, which at a bank of public phones by the Westerkerk, a 16th-century church on the feels like an amenity, with a wealth of different artists. On the hotel's Internet Prinsengracht, a canal west of the city site (www.winston.nl), you can inspect center. One of the bright-green columns standard tourist map. Like the myster- stairs, in a warren of brick rooms surthese "artist rooms" and reserve the one was labeled Internet, and had a keyboard Such details are part of an effort by the of your choice. I decided to try the Startel and screen instead of a phone. There are Instrumental Music, or Steim, which its chamber — the Theatrum Anatomicum. Times.

35 of these Web kiosks scattered around Amsterdam, including one in the train station. KPN Telecom, the recently privatized Dutch phone company, has been installing them since January 1997. They accept phone cards or credit cards; the cost is about 10 cents a minute. The kiosks have their limitations - there are

The Amsterdam new-media world is full of private little spaces, known only markt square. The Waag is the headquarphone call or two, one can uncover some

director, Michel Waisvisz, explained, In the Theatrum, the bodies of prisoners works in the background to help artists develop personal instruments.

T PROVIDES its sponsored musical researchers with no-guests-allowed ateliers for their projects, "a monastery where they can isolate them-selves," Waisvisz said. The artists Steim comfortably, and they're hard to spot has worked with include the performance because from the side, they look like artist Laurie Anderson and Tod Machover, a professor from the Masphones. But they're great for Web surfplayed over the Internet, by opponents ing, and for sending quick, mindless e-sachusetts Institute of Technology known who never see each other. Here people mails. ("Guess where I'm e-mailing for his digitally enhanced "hypercello" sachuseus Institute of Technology known and other new musical instruments.

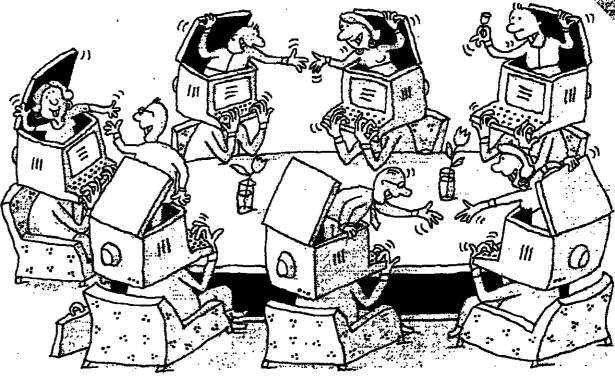
Then there's the Waag, in the Nieuwto the cognoscenti. Nonetheless, with a ters of the Society for Old and New Media, Amsterdam's premiere electronof the attractions that don't appear on the ic-arts foundation. The society is upious institution the Studio for Electro rounding a fantastic skylit octagonal

were dissected for the edification of future surgeons - and the entertainment of the public. It was here that Rembrandt painted his 1632 painting. "Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulp." It is now one of the sites of a major

digital-art project called Brandon, jointly sponsored by the Wang and the Guggenheim Museum in SoHo

(www.brandon.guggenheim.org).
What I like about Amsterdam's public technology is the sense of control it gives you. The Web kiosks on the street, the well-designed airport, the mass-transit number. They all share a common goal they make the world intelligible, and give you power over it.

Matt Steinglass, a writer and Weh producer who is moving to Amsterdam this month, wrote this for The New York



Tucson Comes to Life With the Spring

By Judith Anderson

UCSON, Arizona — Spring begins this month in Tucson. The season when the city Bureau at (800) 638-8350. is at its extroverted peak, inviting the world to sample its diversity. And the world comes, to an eclectic array of trade shows, exhibitions, cultural activities, sporting events and religious ceremonies.

can creates a patio dining area, and entertainment of all sorts takes place in the open air. Dress is casual, and folks start shucking their outer layers at the slightest provocation.

When so many events and participants hit town at once. it can be difficult to book a room or even make a dinner reservation. Some prices skyrocket. Over all, rates drop in May, but prices that have been inflated just for the

gem shows this week, for in- de los Vaqueros, Feb. 24 to is back in action, complete Foods, (520) 624-0322, is facommodations, try the Tuc-son Convention and Visitors

From Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17 this year) through Easter week (March 28 to April 4), rituals of the Pascua Yaqui Indians meld native traditions with Christian become simply to escape winter. culmination at Old Pascua enation of dances involving a miles (22 kilometers) west of exterior, naive and elaborate bonfire, carved masks and brilliant paper flowers.

Old-Time Fiddle Contest on botanical garden is open Feb. 21 promises a day of foot-tapping pleasure under P.M. until March 1, then 7:30 tiled pools and fountains in sunny skies. Participants A.M. to 6 P.M. There is a the courtyard and patios, all from coast to coast will compete for cash prizes at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park. And the 74th annual Fiesta

a real hometown affair, with built for the 1940 film "Arihundreds of glossy horses, zona. cowboys and Indians, spirited musicians and flashy

Mexican folk dancers. INTO THE DESERT The Aritown via twisty, scenic Gates ornamentation inside. Pass Road, the popular 15-For lovers of bluegrass, the acre (6-hectare) zoo and daily from 8:30 A.M. to 5 pleasant café open for lunch until mid-April, with \$10 to \$15 entrees, and a grill open

Tough Old Tucson Studios

stance, should be back to nor- 28, is a big-money rodeo that with bar brawls and shootmal around the middle of the draws champion riders and outs in the dusty streets and month. For last-minute ac- rough stock from all over the rides for younger children. A country. The rodeo parade, fire in 1995 gutted the fa-Feb. 25, on the other hand, is miliar movie set, originally

> missions still serving its Native American parishioners is the Mission San Xavier del Bac, on the Tohono O'odham

One of the last Spanish

(520) 797-1222, occupies a 1940s adobe hacienda with tiled pools and fountains in surrounded by 48 acres of desert preserve. It is a charming spot for a simple breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea.

meal, steamed in its own husk, appears on many of the combination plates. Lunch for two with Mexican beer

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IGH style describes both the decor and the cuisine at the exuberliefs at their three reserva- zona-Sonora Desert Museum and San Xavier reservations ant Cafe Poca Cosa. There is Of course, a lot of visitors tions around Tucson. The presents desert wildlife in a 10 miles south of Tucson. a different menu every day, natural setting, from exotic The 200-year-old White and the chef chooses your This city lives outside in the Village is a dramatic Easter jaguarundis to antic prairie Dove of the Desert mixes food if you order the Plato spring. Every restaurant that Saturday ceremony called La dogs and the newest arrivals, Moorish, byzantine and Mex- Poca Cosa. With margaritas Gloria, a mysterious concat- three coyote pups. Fourteen ican baroque elements on its or wine and dessert, dinner for two costs about \$55.

And during March, nearly 50 spring-training baseball son. The city is host to three major league teams: the Colorado Rockies, the Chicago White Sox and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Judith Anderson, who lives in Tucson, wrote this for The And Lerua's Fine Mexican New York Times.

Mercedes On-Road Off-Roader

By Gavin Green

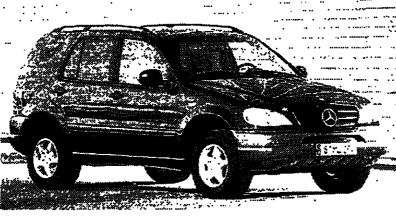
Spring is the season when Tucson reaches its extroverted peak.

HE car market is crazy. As proof, recent research suggests that only 5 percent of people who buy off-roaders use them off-road. No one will be surprised by this statistic. Everyone knows that Sport Utility Vehicles aren't meant for ott-road! People buy them for what they represent (the great outdoors, a truck-like strength) rather than for what they can achieve (climbing mountains, traversing bogs, exploring jungle).

Well, all utility vehicle manufacturers keep up the pretense. They fit ever-stronger chassis, ever-more hightech transmissions, ever more capable differentials, ever bigger wheels and more technological accourrements to tations. And in Europe, the M-class is and mankind's quest to boldly go where no car has gone before.

Finally, one has cried "Enough!" and admitted that its off-roader is actually meant for city or suburban types. The new Mercedes M-class is an off-smooth-revving, sophisticated unit and roader meant for the road. It makes no it's mated to a sweet-shifting fiveclaims to be better across the Sahara speed automatic transmission as silken than a Land Rover, or more adept at as any luxury car's. Handling, while climbing the Rockies than a Jeep. Its not exactly sports-car sharp, is not claim to fame is that it is better at dulled by the usual surplus weight that driving to the shopping mall than any- makes most 4x4s lumbering companthing else in the class — a utility ve- ions. It drives like a good car, but with

Mercedes-Benz, which has no pedi- of the main appeals of utility vehicles. gree at making utility vehicles. It once It is also prodigiously roomy, with a had a frightfully militaristic 4x4 called spacious rear seat and a vast trunk. the G-wagen, which was about as fashif it really has to.



now the Mercedes most in demand. To consumption. Even though it feels rea-help satisfy it, production is about to sonably nimble, the ML320, as tested, commence in Graz, Austria. The test car had a V6 engine, al-

though a V8 is also available. It is a the added bonus of the high driving It is also unusual because it is a position, which research shows is one

ionable as a combat helmet and was BUT OH, THE PLASTIC If only the cabable to traverse tall mountains in a in looked better! Oh yes, there's wood single charge. Nobody bought it, be- and typical Benz-like instruments, cause it was ugly. The M-class is the which are models of class and clarity; very opposite. It looks classy and car- but the plastic textures of the dash and like, like every other Mercedes, but is cabin fittings are what you'd expect to still tangibly a vehicle that can rough it, find in a Moskvitch, and there's an insubstantial feel to many of the con-The M-class is built in Tuscaloosa, trois. Even the carpets feel low-quality. Alabama, and sales in the United States A revamp is apparently on the way, and have been huge, way beyond expec- it can't come a moment too soon.

The only other downside is the fuel weighs the best part of two tons. And nothing encourages gluttony like a heavy body. A normal V6 car is likely to record much better gas mileage.

But there's little else wrong with this likable machine. It's even quite good off-road. It lacks the usual locking differentials and vast truck-like axles and springs, yet it's electronic traction control helps give good loose-surface grip. It would have little trouble dealing with gravel roads, mild snowy ascents, or shallow river crossings. So if you really want to take the first off-roader designed for on-road, off-road, it won't let you down. Although you might feel a little crazy doing it.

• Mercedes ML320. About \$50,000.

V6 engine, 3199cc, 218 bhp at 5,600 rpm. Five-speed automatic transmission, four-wheel drive. Top speed: 185 kph (115 mph). Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 9.8 seconds. Average fuel consumption: 14.0 liters/100km. Next: The Audi TT

Gavin Green is editor in chief of Car

MOVIE GUIDE

PAYBACK

Directed by Brian Helgeland, U.S. No actor should have to mouth the ludicrous hard-boiled dialogue — lines like, "What's the matter, cat got your crotch?" — that lends "Payback," the new Mel Gibson action-adventure film. the flavor of a stale "Saturday Night Live" parody. This bizarre dud of a genre movie, adapted from the same Richard Stark novel ("The Hunter") that inspired the 1967 film "Point Blank," is set in a dank, urban no-man's prostitutes, the cops corrupt and morality a matter of evil versus evil. Gibson is Porter, a career criminal who after recovering from near-fatal gunshot wounds at the hands of his double-crossing partner, Val (Gregg Henry), embarks on a killing spree to recover the \$70,000 his sidekick stole from him. Before he's finished, but not before a scene in which we watch his agonized grimaces as two of his toes are smashed by a sledgehammer, Porter goes up against the kingpins of a crime organization called the Outfit, in a battle that culminates with some cheesy cut-rate pyrotechnics. "Payback," directed by Brian Helgeland, one of the writers responsible for the elegant screenplay of "L.A. Confidential," comes at you (not just your toes but your mind) with the subtlety of a sledgehammer. Gibson, affecting his best macho growl, is at least able to keep a straight face through the tortured purple prose his character, who narrates the movie, is forced to deliver. But Henry's Val is a garish comic-book fiend, while Kris Kristofferson, as the king of all underworld kingpins, delivers yet another nonperformance, speaking in a dull, sepulchral monotone, his eyes squinted shut. What it lacks in originality, "Payback" tries to make up for in sadistic gore. Before they begin shooting and slicing one another, the characters take cackling relish in describing the tortures they would like to inflict. Amid the countless beatings that are talks tough, spews obscenities, wields administered, one kick in the groin handguns with unflinching authority. won't do. There have to be at least three drives like a demon, makes grown males per scene. What one word might best strip, tells a little boy precisely why,

La Nina de Tus Ojos Directed by Fernando Trueba. Spain. Fernando Trueba won an Oscar for best foreign film in 1993 for "Belle Epoque," and since then he has been fine tuning the script for his latest movie, "La Nina de Tus Ojos." The plot concerns some Spanish actors whom Franco sent, during the Spanish Civil War in 1938, to Hitler's Berlin to make a movie. That much is based on real history, but the details of the film's story are fictitious. Billed as a comedy, the film soon turns dramatic when the land. Here sadism rules, all women are naive Spaniards learn that Hitler is persecuting the Jews. The Jews, in turn, are pressed into service as extras for the Spanish movie because the blond Germans at the Berlin studio just don't look the part of dark-haired Spaniards. Trueba labors before achieving a certain cruising speed for his film, and it has enticing moments, and much fine photography, before running into some trouble toward the end. That's when drama finally prevails over comedy and when there are sporty scenes like the airport farewell that seems blatantly inspired by the classic "Casablanca." But the movie is fine vehicle for Penelope Cruz; who shines with a broad range of emotions in the role of a saucy Spanish tavern singer. Her love interest, the Czech actor Karel Dobry, as a Jewish prisoner. provides a gripping intensity, and her frus-trated director, Antonio Resines, is convincing as a man plagued by bad timing. But a troupe of supporting veteran Spanish actors turns in uneven performances, and the ambitious film falls short of its full (Al Goodman, IHT)

Directed by Sidney Lumet. U.S. Sharon Stone may have left her heart in San Francisco, but the rest of her is strictly from Noo Yawk in a richly comic performance as the heroine of "Gloria," To hear Stone turning "off" into "awf," "all right" into "awright," "the" into "duh" and "go ahead" into "g'head" is a delight all by itself. But her Gloria also

describe "Payback"? How about anatomically he is not a man and gives



Maria Bello and Mel Gibson in the out of control "Payback,"

expects him to have when - and if - he grows up, which involves booze. gambling, tuxedoes and skinny but otherwise well-endowed blondes. A selfdescribed broad. Gloria is a brassy. gutsy, foul-mouthed ex-con who finds she has an unexpected heart of mush when her error-prone path through life crosses that of little Nicky Nunez (Jean-Luke Figueroa). As written by Steve Antin and directed by Sidney Lumet with his customary fine eye for the urban landscape of New York City, this "Gloria" is a smoother, funnier, more suspenseful, more endearing version of the 1980 John Cassavetes film of the same title. Young Figueroa makes a fine foil for the intermittently maternal Gloria. And Stone, who in one guise or another has always been a treat, turns in a performance that merits the key to Noo "loathsome"? (Stephen Holden, NYT) him advice about the kind of fun she Yawk. (Lawrence Van Gelder, NYT)



L.A.'s Little Tokyo Is Still a Hub

By Todd S. Purdum New York Times Service

OS ANGELES - For more than a century, a few square blocks in downtown Los Angeles have been the spiritual center of the largest Japanese-American community in North America. But times have often been tough for Little Tokyo.

It sprang up in the first place because Japanese immigrants were barred from owning property in white neighbor-

By the eve of World War II, the area was a thriving enclave of stores and apartments in the shadow of City Hall, but the forced internment of Japanese-Americans left it devastated. After the war, succeeding generations spread to the suburbs and returned mainly to shop and eat sushi. The 1992 riots scared away tourists and Angelenos alike, leaving the future uncertain.

'I think Little Tokyo is sort of in the middle of a transition that even those of us who live and work here are not quite sure how it's going to turn out," said Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center, a 20-yearold nonprofit social service and economic development organization.
"What we're trying to do is see how we can shift from being a community of people who might live here to a community of people who have some link to the cultural and ethnic tie."

To that end, the opening on Jan. 23 of a new 85,000-square-foot pavilion at the Japanese American National Museum at 369 East First Street was a milestone in the community's efforts to endure and prevail. The new pavilion — actually a whole new building, designed by Gyo Obata, architect of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington — triples the size of the original museum, which had the bad luck to open in 1992 on the first day of the Los Angeles riots.

which 120,000 Japanese-Americans in western states were imprisoned by pres-

Situated just across a graceful plaza idential order from 1942 to 1945, from the original museum, which is

Also on view, through July housed in a 1925 former Buddhist temple, the new stone, steel and glass pavilion, with a peaceful interior garden, will house changing exhibits from the museum's collection of 30,000 objects, including artifacts, paintings and films. Together, they trace the Japanese ex-

migration to the present. Founded by a coalition of Japanese-American businessmen and World War II veterans, the museum has always emphasized the searing experience of war and intermment on Japanese-Americans, and that will remain an important part of its mission, officials say.

It's an important place that we can say is our place and has historical significance.'

But the new space, part of a \$45 million expansion, allowed the creation of a National Resource Center, a kind of library with an interactive data base of images and text from the museum's collection, along with changing exhibits by

Japanese-American artists.

The main opening exhibit, on view through 2001, is called "Common Ground: The Heart of Community." It features everything from an old baseball uniform from a Japanese-American team to a reconstructed tar-paper barracks from the relocation camp in Heart Mountain, Wyoming, its bare wood floors silent witness to the hysteria in

ARTS

GUIDE

Also on view, through July 4, is a video and multimedia installation by Bruce and Norman Yonemoto, thirdgeneration brothers based in Los Angeles, known for exploring, among other things, the role cinematic images play in creating concepts of race and ethnicity. The museum (213) 625-0414, is open perience in America from earliest imdaily except Mondays; admission \$6.

But the museum is not the only new addition in Little Tokyo's three-blocksquare area. Last year, the East West Players, a theater company, moved into the newly restored Union Church building on San Pedro Street. It has staged a well-received revival of Stephen Sondheim's "Pacific Overtures," and this winter featured Danny Glover and Nobu McCarthy in "Yohen," by Philip Kan Gotanda, about an interracial couple's struggle to preserve their marriage. Information: (213) 625-7000.

A stroll through Weller Court, a shopping mall with fancy boutiques, and vending machines selling canned Japanese iced coffees, leads to the New Otani Hotel at East First and South Los Angeles Streets, a favorite of Japanese businessmen and tourists, with its elegant garden and well-regarded restaurant, A Thousand Cranes.

The James Irvine Garden, an oasis in

the traditional Japanese style, is adjacent to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center at 244 South San Pedro Street, where the sweeping red brick plaza and stone sculpture were designed by the Los Angeles-born sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

"Now there are Japanese shops and businesses throughout Southern California, so you can buy food and eat noodles anywhere, and that has made for a gradual shrinking of Little Tokyo," Watanabe of the Little Tokyo Service Center said. 'But I think it's an important place that we can say is our place and has historical

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Historical Museum of the City of Vienna, tel: (1) 525-24-0, open daily. To April 5: "Samural & Bushido: The Mirror of Japan." A survey of Japanese history and art from the mid-16th century to the beginning of the Meiji-period in 1867 with 250 hanging scrolls, kimonos, tea ceremony armor and weapons.

BRITAIN

Scottish National Portrait Gallery, tel: (131) 332-2266, open daily. Continuing/ To March 7: "Prophets and Pilgrims: Ruskin, Proust and Northern Gothic." John Ruskin, the Victorian art critic and theorist, had a great influence on 19th-century figures, including work into French. The exhibition features drawings and watercolors.

National Gallery, tel: (171) 747-2885, open daily. Continuing/ To April 25: "Portraits by ingres: Images of an Epoch." Portraits of ar-istocrats, merchants, bankers and diplomats of the Napoleonic era, by the artist (1780-1867) who domi-

nated French painting for 50 years. www.nationalgallery.org.uk Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily. To April 11: "Monet in the 20th Century." Fea-tures 80 paintings completed in the final decades of the artist's life.

www.royalacademy.org.uk Victoria and Albert Muse (171) 938-8349, open daily. Continuing/To April 12: "Henri Cartier-Bresson: Elsewhere." The display covers a less familiar side of the French photographer's work: photographs from Asia and North

DENMARK

HUMILERAFE Louislans Museum of Modern Art, tel: 49-19-07-19, open daily. To April 21: "The Asian City of the 90s." Art and architecture of Asian cities, showing the exchange of architectural and urban planning ideas between Asia and foreign

www.louisiana.dk

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Mark Rothko, in 1961, with "Number 7," painted a year earlier. The artist's works are in a Paris show.

the relationship between the mind

and the face, from Leonardo's he-

roic man to Francis Bacon's

(6) 6876-2481, closed Wednes-

days. To March 28; "Embodied Lo-

gos." Features the works of 14

contemporary German female artists, including Rebecca Hom

www.nmao.go.jp

www.nmwa.go.jp

NETHERLANDS

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JAPAN

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Regard Libre." Sody works by the Spanish painter (1748-1828) on Documents the interpretation of loan from European, American and Mexican collections.

Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, tel: 01-53-67-40-00, closed Mondays, Continuing/ To intings of the 1930s. Surre

April 18: "Mark Rothko." Figurative nfluenced works of the '40s and the large coloriul canvases that lead to the somber paintings created just before the American painter's death in 1970.

GERMANY

Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, tel: (69) 299-882-11, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To April 11: "Augenwooden panels, in wax painting or tempera, that were added to Egyp-tian mummles in Roman times. www.schim.de

ITALY

MITLAN Palazzo Reale,

Palais des Beaux-Arts, tel: Con-Palazzo Reale, tel: (02) 8691-tinuing/ To March 14: "Goya: Un 5738, open daily. Continuing/ To

Sculptor, 1556-1626." Fifty bronze and 25 drawings by the Dutch sculptor whose work was commissioned by European royalties.

SWEDEN

Moderna Museet, tel: (8) 51-95-52-00, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 7: "Jean Fauther: Paintings, Sculptures, Works on Paper." A commemoration of the centenary of the French painter's birth.

TAIWAN

Chang Foundation, tel: (2) 2356-9575, closed Feb. 15-16. Continu-ing/ To March 14: "Tibetan and Oing Dynasty Buddhist images." A small exhibition of Buddhist items on loan from the Summer Palace at Chengde, China.

UNITED STATES

NEW YORK

Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel: (212) 570-3951, closed Mondays. xtended/ To Feb. 21: "From Van Eyck to Bruegel: Early Netherland-ish Painting in the Metropolitan Museum of Art." More than 140 works by 15th- and 16th-century artists, such as Petrus Christus, Hans Memling, Gerard David, Rogier van der Weyden and Jan Van Eyck. www.metmuseum.org

National Gallery of Art, tel: (202) 737-4215, open daily. To May 31: "From Botany to Bouquets: Flowers in Northern Art." Documents the use of flowers in still life paintings by 17th-century artists Jan Brueghel the Elder, Jan Davidz Heem and Jan van Huysum. www.nga.gov

CLOSING SOON

Feb. 15: "Edo: Art in Japan, 1615-1868." National Gallery of Art, National Museum of Western Art, tel: (3) 3828-5131, closed

Feb. 14: "Masterpleces From the Musee de l'Orangerie." Bunkamura Museum of Art, Tokyo. "Goya: Unique and an Artist of His Time." Approximately 300 works by the Spanish painter (1746-1828)

> Feb. 14: "Tumer in the Alps." Tate Gallery, London Feb. 14: "Rembrandt et Amster-dam." Institut Neerlandais, Paris.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

CROSSWORD

open daily. Continuing/ To March

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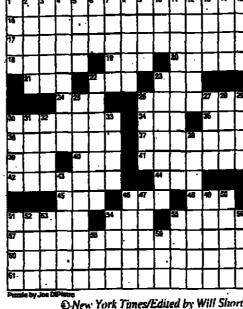
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ONew York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

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GOOD TRAVEL DEALS

AER LINGUS	Britain to Ireland	Round-trip for £129 (\$210) for two people from London Heathrow t Shannon. Accommodation from £19 per night and Hertz car rental from £1 per day. Some conditions apply. Until March 27. (44-645) 737-747.
ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS	Paris to Honolulu	Round-trip (via Tokyo) for 3,500, francs (\$603). Conditions apply. For departures until Feb. 26, from March 1 to 15 and March 24 to 29. (33-1 5383-5225.
BRITISH AIRWAYS	Worldwide	New "Explorer" around-the-world fares with One-World alliance partner (American Airlines, Canadian Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Qantas) from £860 (\$1,400) in economy. Sample routing: London-Buenos Aires-San tiago. Chile-Dallas-Vancouver. British Columbia-Sydney-Melbourne Tokyo-Singapore-London. Economy, £1,190; business class, £3,050; first class, £4,500.
DELTA	France to United States	SkyMiles members eam double miles on nonstop flights in business class from Paris/Nice to New York JFK, or Paris to New York, Atlanta, Boston Chicago, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington until March 31.
JETSET	Britain to Ireland	Three-day package for £149 (\$245) per person includes round-trip flights to Shannon with AB Airlines, three-day Hertz car rental and two nights accommodations and breakfast in a three-star hotel, Until March 31 (44-8706) 09-09-09.
KLM UK	Britain	Round-trip fare of £39 (\$64), including airport tax, from London Stansted to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Newcastle and from London City to Manchester, Glasgow or Edinburgh, For travel until March 25, Some restrictions apply. (44-1803) 424-288 or 0990-074074.
QANTAS	France to Australia	Round-trip for 5,700 francs (\$980) from Paris to Adelaide, Brisbane. Cairns Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney: 6,600 francs from Bordeaux, Lyon Marseille, Nice, Toulouse, Conditions apply. Must book by March 31 fo departure before June 30. Toll free: 0803 846-846 in France.
ROYAL VIKING SUN	Shanghai to Tokyo	Sail from Shanghai to Tokyo, April 2 to 10, and return by air from 17,800 year (\$2,150) per person (double occupancy).

FOUR SEASONS	New York	Discounts of 25 percent for "superior" and "deluxe" rooms. Doubles for \$415 to \$495, plus taxes. Until Aug. 31. (1-212) 758-5700.
LE GRIMALDI	Nice .	Three nights' double accommodation for 760 francs (\$130) a night includes buffet breakfast, welcome Champagne and a gift. Until March 31. (33-4) 9316-0024.
KOWLOON HOTEL	Hong Kong	Rates from 1,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$130) per room per night, plus tax and service, include American buffet breakfast and round-trip airport transfers. Until May 14.
LIBERTEL HOTELS	Paris	Rooms from 395 francs (\$68) at 36 properties in Paris. Until March 31.
RADISSON SAS ST. HELEN'S	Dublin	Two nights for two people for £240 (\$390) includes buffet breakfast and tickets to the "reserved" enclosure for one day of racing at Leopardstown Race-course, five minutes away. Until March 31.
ROYAL GARDEN	London	Easter Break weekend for £130 (\$212) per night for two people includes English breakfast, two tickets to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Whistle Down the Wind," pre-theater champagne and canapes and post-theater coffee and chocolates. Until March 31.

Compiled by Roger Collis/Although the LHT carefully checks these offers, please be lovewamed that some travel agents may be untoware of them, or unable to book them

BOOKS

STALIN'S SPY Richard Sorge and the Tokyo Espionage Ring

By Robert Whymant. Illustrated. 368 pages. \$25.95. St. Martin's Press. Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

■ N 1964, Richard Sorge, the celebrated spy who provided information to So-World War II Tokyo, officially became a hero of the Soviet Union. It did him no good, since he had been executed in Japan in 1943, but it illustrated the paradox of his remarkable career.

After his capture by the Japanes against whom he had spied, Sorge was offered to the Soviet Union in exchange for Japanese spies imprisoned in Russia. 'The man called Richard Sorge is unknown to us," Soviet officials replied, wanting nothing to do with their most important espionage agent in Asia.

It could be said that the man called

Richard Sorge has been unknown to most of us. But thanks to "Stalin's Spy." the British journalist Robert Whymant, we now know a great deal about the romantic, intelligent, reckless and extraordinary German communist who was one of history's most successful spies. That he was recognized for his ac-

complishments in the Soviet Union only 21 years after his execution is merely one of several paradoxes in a history that is scrupulously and readably presented Whymant's book. Another is that Stalin ignored the single most important piece of information that it would have been possible for a Soviet spy to obtain: advance knowledge of Germany's plans to invade the Soviet Union in 1941.

More important, perhaps, Sorge though a pro-Soviet communist, credibly emerges in Whymant's portrayal as a hero, and not only to the Soviet Union. His major motivation was hatred of Hitler and Nazism in Germany, and his work was aimed at hastening their defeat. "Certainly, Sorge's primary duty in

Tokyo was to help the Soviet Union ward off a very real threat from Japan," Whymant writes, "However, he saw Nazi Germany as the most evil and dangerous foe, not only of Russia but of civilization itself." Thwarted by Stalin's stubborn refusal

to believe his warning of the German an amazing stream of information. invasion, Sorge leaked the information

to an American journalist, Joseph Newman of The New York Herald Tribune. He also provided information to Western reporters on Japan's ambitions to conquer Southeast Asia. "Taking a broad strategic view, Sorge reckoned that it was imperative to alert the Western democracies to Japan's aggressive designs, Whymant concludes. Whymant, who spent about 20 years

viet military intelligence from his base in researching this book, tracked down sur- anti-Nazi sentiments, which seem to vivors of the Tokyo espionage ring that have been dismissed in the German Em-Sorge led and made good use of newly bassy as the quirks of a brilliant and opened Soviet archives to piece together valuable analyst of Japan. While a few the full and fascinating story of "Stalin's gaps in the record remain unfilled, Why-

Sorge was born in Baku, Azerbaijan where his German father worked in the oil fields. But Sorge, whose mother was Rus- to the Soviet Union. sian, was taken at an early age to Germany, growing up in Berlin and serving as an artillery bombardier in World War L Wounded and disillusioned, he returned home from the war and quickly became active in the Communist Party. In the mid-1920s, he was recruited by the Comintern, the Communist International, to become a Soviet agent.

His first posting was Shanghai, during an early stage of the conflict between Chinese Nationalists and Communists. Among his closest friends was the pro-Communist American journalist Agnes Smedley, who introduced him to some of the people who would later form part of his secret circle in Tokyo, including a well-connected, secretly leftist Japanese journalist named Ozaki Hotsumi. Called back to Moscow in 1933.

Sorge was soon sent to Tokyo with instructions to report on Japan's intentions toward the Soviet Union in the global conflict already looming. Sorge returned for a time to Germany

to establish his connections as a German journalist. His wartime service and his wounds served him well as he sought letters of introduction to German officials, including the German military attaché Eugen Ott, who would later become Hitler's ambassador to Japan. Sorge arrived in Tokyo in September

attached to the Fourth Department, responsible for agents operating in foreign countries. During his nine years in Japan, he built a small but remarkable network of informers who fed Moscow Whymant's account of those years is

1933 as an officer in the Soviet Army.

gripping and instructive, and not only because of Sorge's exploits in espionage. Sorge lived tempestuously and licentiously in Tokyo, drinking to excess, speeding around town on a motorcycle and pursuing Japanese and German women (including a visiting anti-Nazi harp-sichordist named Eta Harich-Schneider). Surprisingly, he did not even bother

much to conceal his pro-Russian and mant is able to tell us almost exactly how Sorge built his Tokyo network and how he obtained the information he passed on

A key to his success was his friendship with Ozaki Hotsumi, his old friend from Shanghai who belonged to the circle of advisers around the Japanese prime minister, Prince Konoye. But the most important intelligence that fell into Sorge's hands came from the Germans. Sorge was so trusted in the embassy that his good friend Ott sent him on a secret mission to Shanghai, giving him the German cipher tables used in communications with Berlin.

Whymant writes: "It stretches the imagination to suppose that these coveted keys were not spirited out of Japan and passed on to Moscow's code-breakers."

Whymant covers all of the essential questions about the Soviet spy's career, including Sorge's growing ambivalence toward the Soviet Union under Stalin and the sense he had of being trapped in his role. In 1937 he ignored an order to return to Moscow for consultations, apparently sensing that he might be imprisoned or executed.

Japan finally caught up with him in 1942 after the interrogation of a minor member of his network. After months of questioning, he was hanged. Had the Japanese been able to turn him over to the Russians, he would almost certainly have been shot, given Stalin's embarrassment at having ignored Sorge's in-formation about Hitler's invasion plans. In other words, Whymant's portrayal

of Sorge's life as one of tragic ambiguity is persuasive. "Stalin's Spy" is an utterly fascinating book that treats Sorge with the complexity that his life and career deserve.

New York Times Service

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

SK a contract bridge expert when and where the game developed, and the answer is likely to focus on Harold Vanderbilt's celebrated cruise through the Panama Canal in 1925. That great yachtsman certainly codified the modern form, but he did not invent it. The contract idea was popular in France a decade earlier, under the name plafond, and four English officers in India were per-

haps earlier still Auction bridge, in which a player could score a game or a At a recent tournament comslam without bidding it, appeared about 1903, but the predecessor game, simply called bridge, has a long and obscure history. There are several references to it within Kubac, two young stars.

which records play in Constantinople in 1873. There is a slight possibility

the Ottoman Empire, one of

that it was played there much during the Crimean War of and would probably have 1854-56. As in the prior game gone on redoubling forever if of whist, it was played by opposing partners. It intro-duced the dummy hand and the right for the dealer or his partner to name the trump suit. It also permitted unlimited doubles and redoubles. Turkey seems to have forgotten its claim to have ori-

ginated the game, but it has an active national organization. memorating the 75th an-niversary of the foundation of the Turkish Republic, 210 pairs took part. The winners were Tamer Uz and Nezih

The most dramatic deal, in and a rare score of 1080, the diagram, was greatly en- outscoring even the handful hal Kefeli. When East rashly doubled her in four hearts, she earlier, by British officers was delighted to redouble,

the laws of the previous cen-

tury had still been in force. A club was led to the ace and two top spades were cashed. She ruffed a spade and led the heart nine, running +Q87653 it when East played low.

On the next trump lead, East played the jack and the ace won. Diamonds were led, and when East ruffed the third round with the heart seven, South discarded her club loser. She ruffed a club lead and exited with her last spade, scoring the king-ten of hearts at the finish over the queen-four.

joyed by the South player, Ni- of pairs who struggled home in six diamonds. NORTH (D)

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Baghdad Scores Diplomatic Point as Aziz Visit to Turkey Is Announced

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — The government of Saddam Hussein scored at least a symbolic diplomatic coup when it was announced that the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, would visit Turkey

A statement from the Foreign Ministry said Mr. Aziz would arrive in Ankara on Monday for "high-level discussions regarding Iraq and the Turkey-Iraq relationship."
The announcement Wednesday came when

Iraq appeared to be increasingly isolated.
In recent weeks, Baghdad has bitterly accused many countries in the Middle East of abandoning

the fragi cause. At the same time, the United States has stepped np its efforts to overthrow the Iraqi government. U.S. planes were bombing Iraq at almost the same moment that Mr. Aziz's visit to Ankara was being announced.

Although Turkey and the United States are from Baghdad. "Of course," Mr. Aziz said when NATO allies and close political partners, differences between their policies toward Iraq have mandate. "Certainly I will raise the issue." broken into the open since Bulent Ecevit became prime minister last month. The U.S. Embassy in Ankara, where diplomats are anxious to prevent in orthern and southern Iraq.]
Iraq from driving a wedge between the United States and Turkey, issued a restrained statement claimed anti-imperialist, has for years expressed in response. It said only that Turkey "has its own foreign policy" and that Turkish leaders should stress to Aziz the need for Iraq to comply with UN Security Council resolutions."

A U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity, however, was more explicit. "We don't the diplomat said of Mr. Aziz's planned visit. "Why would they give him sanction and access when we're trying to isolate him? It runs counter to what we want to do."

[Mr. Aziz said Thursday he would ask Ankara to end a mandate allowing the United States and flight zone over northern Iraq, Reuters reported

Mr. Aziz also said that his government would continue to challenge the no-flight zones in

sympathy with Iraq and Mr. Saddam. This month, as U.S. war planes flying from Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey have repeatedly bombed Iraqi targets, Mr. Ecevit has begun to question their mission.

"The Iraqis are zealous supporters of their independence," Mr. Ecevit said in a television interview last week. "It is unclear how the American government will reach its goals to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

It doesn't seem to have formed a policy on Iraq. It needs to plan carefully what to do about Britain to use a Turkish air base to enforce a no-

Incirlik base and wants Iraq to comply with UN resolutions that require it to allow monitoring of its weapons programs.

"We're very strongly asking for full com-pliance," Mr. Cem said. "The Americans have their policies, but Iraq is a state and a neighbor of ours. When the leadership of a neighboring state Iraqi people and with Saddam. asks to create the groundwork for coming over and having bilateral talks, I think it is normal to proceed with that."

Turkey and Iraq enjoyed good relations before the Gulf War. Since the war, Turkey has lost billions of dollars as a result of trade sanctions imposed on Iraq by the United Nations.

A national election is scheduled here on April 18, and by inviting Iraq's second-ranking leader the no-flight zone in southern Iraq. to Ankara, Mr. Ecevit may be seeking to shore up his support among leftist voters and the thousands of families along the Iraqi border who have lost their livelihoods as a result of the UN sanctions. assessment was under way.

Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said Turkey remains willing to allow U.S. planes to use the tap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting the American the lap of the United States and letting t icans use the Incirlik base for bombing Iraq," said Cengiz Candar, an author and commentator who is a specialist on Middle East politics.

"It runs against the image he cultivated over the years as having a distance from the United

■ New U.S. Strikes in the North

The Pentagon said U.S. jets attacked several Iraqi air defense sites Thursday after being targeted by radar in the northern no-flight zone, The Associated Press reported from Washington.
It was the second clash in two days. On Wed-

nesday allied jets retaliated against violations of

Iraq claimed that two civilians were killed and several injured. The U.S. European Command, which oversees the northern zone, said a damage

that strengthen the presidency.

But no matter what actions it takes,

the reputation of Congress already has

Richard Fenno of the University of

Rochester called the impeachment pro-

cess "a fairly major black eye" for

Congress and saw no end to the partisan

squabbling that the public dislikes. He

predicted there would be even more

sense blood," he said.

political tensions now. "Democrats can

Like Congress, the press has seen its

Marvin Kalb, a former television cor-

respondent who now teaches at Harvard,

said: "The reputation of news organi-

zations had begun to suffer well before

Monica came aboard. But the lines have

reputation battered during the past

BRIEFLY

Israel Angry at EU

JERUSALEM - Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany met Thursday with Israeli leaders who are furious over what they view as the European Union's pro-Palestinian bias.

Representing the 15-nation European Union, Mr. Fischer met with President Ezer Weizman and was scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his first trip to Israel as Germany's foreign minister.

But Mr. Fischer's longest scheduled meeting, with Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, was canceled when doctors ordered the Israeli official to stay in bed because of a knee injury, the Foreign Ministry said.

Brazil Drownings

BRASILIA - At least three people were killed and 60 to 70 were missing after a boat capsized on a river in the Brazilian Amazon, a police spokesman said on Thursday.

The boat was carrying 150 pas-sengers when it capsized Wednesday night, said Lieutenant Colonel Moacyr Carioca, spokesman for the police in Amazonas state. (Reuters)

Mass Algeria Grave

ALGIERS - Algerian security forces have found a mass grave in an abandoned well in Ouled Allel, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Algiers, press reports said Thursday. Firefighters clearing the well estimated the number of comses in the dozens. (AFP)

Forest Protection Plan Puts Halt on Roads

WASHINGTON (AP) --- The Clinton administration ordered a halt Thursday to road construction in more than 33 million acres of national forests, a move environmentalists hope will lead to permanent protection of vast areas of forest

But the plan, announced by the Agriculture Department, will exempt large expanses of old-growth forest in the Northwest and in Alaska where road building may continue under previously enacted forest management plans. The 18-month moratorium represents

"an official time out," Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said at a news conference. The plan is little changed from last year's draft, but it adds some forests in the southern Appalachians.

Officials said the moratorium, a prelude to a broader permanent forest road plan, would prevent construction of about 360 miles of road and block the harvesting of about 200 million board feet of lumber, officials said.



President Clinton applauding during a recruiting event for Ameri-Corps, the voluntary service program, at the University of Maryland. Ross Baker of Rutgers University said, pendent-counsel statute when it comes

SCANDAL: Damage Is Widespread as the Trial Moves to a Close since the revelations of John F. up for renewal this year, an action would

was profoundly affected by Watergate," said Robert Dallek, a biographer of President Lyndon Johnson. "This is much more a personal than a governmental crisis.

Thomas Cronin, president of Whit-man College and another presidential scholar, agreed. "What is being pun-ished here is the individual, not the in-

stitution," he said.

The presidency, more than other govemment institutions, is idiosyncratic, as much a reflection of the person who occupies it and the events of the moment as it is a measure of the powers accorded to any chief executive.

But scholars said that, since the end of the Cold War, the presidency had been reduced in importance in the eyes of the American people.

"The public doesn't speak of it anymore in hushed, reverential tones,

Kennedy's sexual escapades as president. "Bill Clinton has succeeded in bringing it down even further."

But he added, "Real changes have

come about from external forces like depression and civil war and world war and cold war rather than the evanescent personality of a single president.

The scholars said they did not anticipate the kind of legislative backlash against the presidency that followed Watergate. Mr. Nixon's resignation took place when Congress was trying to rein in the powers of the president domestically and in foreign affairs. Among its actions toward this end was the creation of the job of independent counsel.

But in this decade, Congress has been ready to give more power to the president, notably through the line-item veto which the courts declared unconstitutional. And Congress could eliminate or significantly change the inde-

tration remained quiet at Geneva.

March 22 and runs until April 30.

of the Geneva gathering.

Mr. Berger said the White House was

looking at what recommendation to

Geneva conference, which starts on

Inconveniently for the administration,

Prime Minister Zhu's April 8 visit to

Washington is scheduled for the middle

the list is the administration's proposal,

which the Chinese have criticized, to

theater missile defense system with Ja-

pan, South Korea and possibly Taiwan.

The system, still in the design stage,

dipped more precipitously with the scramble of traditional news organizations to hold off the challenge of these new outlets — cable talk programs, 24hour news, the Internet." Tom Rosensteil, a former Los Angeles Times reporter who heads a foundation project for improving journalism, said:
"The public resents what it sees as an

suffered.

increasing rush to judgment by the press: unprecedented levels of speculation, pundifry and commentary on this story. Mr. Rosensteil said he saw two other

damaging effects on news organizations themselves. With the multiplication of information channels, he said, "the sources who try to use the press have gained in strength and are more able to manipulate the coverage."

Tim Russert, Washington bureau

On national security, the administra-tion faces a confluence of issues that will chief for NBC News, pointed out another peril. "When the media become only serve to intensify the problems in the relationship with China. At the top of focused on a story," said Mr. Russert, who is also moderator of the television program "Meet the Press," "we may find ourselves driving it, not just repush forward plans for developing a porting it."

The hardest effect to gauge is any change to the andience in all this.

But Thomas Patterson, another Harhas been promoted with renewed ur- vard professor, said: "I think in some gency by the administration since the ways the one sector that probably has on Asia, said there would be an "ex- surprise firing by North Korea of a mis- shown the most wisdom in this dam sile last August. The administration says thing is the public. Pretty early on, they the system would protect Japan and put this in a context and made a decision about it and were not about to be led one siles, but Taiwan has shown interest in way or another by what the major inbeing part of the system, an interest the stitutions were doing."

CHINA: 7 Months After the Clinton Visit, America's Hopeful Policy on Beijing Is Fading very clear potential for a real reversal in meeting of the United Nations Human plosion" in Congress if the adminis-

Continued from Page 1

Prime Minister Zhu Rongji on April 8, the administration will be working hard to find some issue, most likely the possibility of China's entrance into the World Trade Organization, on which it can find some common ground.

Even that common ground may be elusive. As the Chinese economy suffers from slower growth, burgeoning unemployment and stalled economic reforms, the incentive for the Chinese to make trade concessions so they can join the World Trade Organization has rapidly diminished, economists say.

"The administration thought after the Clinton trip that it had come to some tolerable modus vivendi with China," said Jonathan Pollack, a defense strategist at Rand Corp. who recently deep, there's a clear sense that the unthe relationship." The most immediate thorn for the ad-

ministration is how to deal with the re- record their disquiet at China's human gression in China's human rights policies over the past two months. Administration officials argue that they never expected a spite its relative obscurity. continuum of improvement in human rights after Mr. Clinton left China and that there is no quick fix, as Harold Koh. assistant secretary of state for human rights, said recently. But the prison sentences of 11 to 13 years for three de-

'Obviously we were are unhappy about the arrests and have said so publicly and from the president on down privately," said Samuel Berger, the national security adviser.

visited China. "But it doesn't run very administration to register its objection to Representative Doug Berenter of Nebsuch a crackdown is to sponsor a res-raska and chairman of a subcommittee despinnings are very fragile and there's a olution condemning China at the annual

Rights Commission in Geneva. This is an annual opportunity for countries to rights policy in a forum that the Chinese make to President Clinton about the authorities take extremely seriously, de-Last year, in the face of a seemingly

improved human rights climate in China and to the gratification of the Chinese government, the administration decided for the first time since 1990 not to offer such a resolution. But the administration mocracy campaigners in December took officials in Washington by surprise. is in the midst of a heated debate about whether to reverse course and condemn Beijing for the crackdown. Such a reversal could embarrass Mr. Clinton,

The White House was opposed to moving against the Chinese in Geneva. administration officials said, but became Traditionally, the clearest path for the alarmed when a moderate Republican,

MISSILES: China Broadens Its Criticism of U.S. Defense Plan

Continued from Page 1

the carrot." Beijing angrily rejects the missile defense as part of an aggressive tool of containment designed to thwart its designs to reunify Taiwan with the

So far, Washington has discussed the plan with Japan and South Korea and has made no decision on including Taiwan. "The TMD is a political issue not a military one," said the China-based military analyst, dismissing suggestions that China had stepped up missile pro-

duction to counter the system. "It's still a very long way before it is effective operationally," he said of the system, which is many years away from deployment — if it ever gets off the drawing boards.

mean North Korea. Washington plans to spend \$6.6 billion on countering the threat, in addition to \$3.9 billion already budgeted over the next five years, but no decision to deploy will be made before

Diplomats in Geneva said that the

Chinese delegate's speech, coupled with the Foreign Ministry's warning, showed that China was turning up the heat on America over the issue. Mr. Li urged the 61-member forum in

Geneva to launch global negotiations to halt an arms race in space. "As the single multilateral disarm-

ament negotiating forum, the CD should live up to its obligations and responsibilities to address this important issue before it is too late," he said.

'The ultimate consequence will be Defense Secretary William Cohen turning outer space into a new battlefield said last month that the United States and a base for weapon systems," Mr. Li faced a growing threat of missile attacks, said. The U.S. delegation did not rea reference generally understood to spond to China's criticism.

For its part, Taipei called the deployment a psychological threat. Taiwan's Defense Ministry has said that the Chinese missiles, which are capable of carrying either conventional or nuclear warheads, highlight the need for a U.S.-

designed anti-missile defense. Analysts in Taiwan said Thursday the island was vulnerable to any missile buildup by China. Taiwan's air defense currently is based on the U.S.-made Patriot surface-to-air missile system and home-grown Sky Bow missiles.

"Taiwan's missile defense is still very fragile at the moment," said a mil-

itary analyst in Taipei, Andrew Yang. China frightened Taiwanese citizens by test-firing missiles near the coast in

1995 and 1996. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to go to China this month to discuss a range of bilateral issues as well as Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji's expected to the state of the U.S. visit in April. bound not to export missile parts.

South Korea from North Korean misadministration has not discouraged. Beijing has interpreted the recent push on the theater missile defense system as hostile to its interests. A Pentagon of-

ing since the defense system hits at the heart of China's military posture. The coming release of a Pentagon report on the possible architecture for the theater missile defense system is likely to beighten the debate. The Chinese have linked the issue of the missile defense system in a way that does not please the administration. During a visit to Washington last month, a senior Chinese arms control official warned the administration that pushing ahead with the system would sink any chances of China's joining the

CLINTON: Trial Draws to End ficial suggested this was hardly surpris-

Continued from Page 1

out or defeating their colleagues.
"It is deeply troubling that the president views closure of this constitutional process as an opportunity for revenge, Mr. Lott said a statement.

Other Republicans called the Times report a troubling new sign that Mr. Clinton remained defiant and even vin-Mr. Lockhart insisted that Mr. Clinton

would not dwell on the past. One of the president's first acts during his State of the Union address last month, Mr. Lockhart noted, was to turn and offer a hand-like the property of the past to the would not dwell on the past. One of the leader, Representative Dennis Hastert of Illinois. "That is the spirit in which we will go forward," he said.

Mr. Clinton was mostly out of the

public eye on Thursday, meeting with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany. They did not hold a joint news conference as often happens when forign leaders visit.

It appeared increasingly likely that Mr. Clinton, whose political fate faced serious peril in the last year, would escape not only with acquittal but without any official censure or rebuke.

A few conservative Republicans, led by Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, have vowed to block a bipartisan push for a motion to censure Mr. Clinton for his conduct. They call censure constitutionally dubious and say it would only provide political cover for legislators planning to oppose conviction.

Instead, censure advocates now plan to circulate a letter of rebuke, to be signed by senators, then sent to the president and possibly included in the Congressional Record. "One way or the other, this is going to

see the light of day," said Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, a prime sponsor of censure.

A leading Democrat, Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, sounded a caution, however. A letter or petition is a legitimate expression of senators' views. he said, but "if it only gets 30 signatures, it's not as powerful a statement."

Mr. Clinton is expected to make a public statement soon after the final votes. White House aides said he would acknowledge the outcome, offer thanks to supporters and express contrition. He agreement that talks would continue un-would devote most of the statement to a said, would "enable Kosovars to live til the weekend after that." Mr. Cook call for the nation to move ahead on an 'ambitious agenda'' of issues.

KOSOVO: U.S. Officials Say Albright Will Intervene Personally in Peace Talks to Help Resolve Security Issues

Continued from Page 1

that it "effectively gives the Kosovars all the real freedom you can imagine to live their lives and do their business and run their communities as they want."

"Nobody's being asked to give uptheir ultimate aspirations," he said, explaining that Kosovar leaders could count on international help on settling the province's final status after the threeyear interim period of interim autonomy stipulated in the Rambouillet plan.

The word "referendum" - which many ethnic Albanians see as a quasi-

Continued from Page 1

about how the World Bank and IMF

should have responded to the upheavais

that began in Thailand in July 1997 and

The World Bank once offered glow-

ing reports of its successes in Indonesia,

where it has helped build electric power

systems, ports and highways, and lent

But now the report concludes that the

World Bank's overall success was only

"marginally satisfactory," largely be-

cause it paid too little attention to a sick

banking system and Mr. Suharto's re-

fusal to reform the legal system and open

billions for primary education.

up the political system.

have spread across three confinents.

after the interim period — does not the plan, notably these points: appear in the 60-page document containing a framework agreement or in seven annexes spelling out arrangements for implementation. Not all of the annexes had been shown

to the negotiating parties yet, notably those covering police and armed forces - the core of security arrangements in an autonomous Kosovo.

Officials said that Mrs. Albright will concentrate on these points and tell ethnic Albanians that the provisions would protect them from Serbian repression. NATO officials and Clinton admin-

stress and a weak financial sector were

gests that part of the problem was the World Bank's "special relationship"

struggling with in Indonesia and else-

where around the world: Should aid be

The IMF has periodically withheld

small amounts of money from Russia

and other nations that have refused to

live up to their financial agreements, and

the World Bank has sometimes ended

aid to countries for projects that were

governance or financial management?

not addressed," the report found. It sug- are loath to criticize their "clients" in

withheld from countries that are refusing. Indonesia is obvious, but understanding

to follow the institutions' advice, either on how to get it right is difficult."

BANK: A Scathing Assessment of Its Operations in Indonesia

with Mr. Suharto himself.

'Issues of poor governance, social considered a threat to the environment.

 Yugoslav armed forces under Belgrade's command in Kosovo, now numbering about 14,000, would all have to leave the province except for 1,500 border guards, who would have to stay in their frontier positions under rules en-forced by NATO ground troops in the planned implementation force

vices and thought to have numbered 15,000 last year when specialized units assaulted ethnic Albanian villages would be limited to 2,500 men for a year, guarantee of eventual independence istration aides unveiled key specifics of while new local police forces were

• Yugoslav police in Kosovo — a paramilitary force divided into three ser-

But both the World Bank and the IMF

rector for strategy and operations in East

Asia. "That we didn't get it right in

In a response to the report, the In-

donesian minister of state for national

development planning, Boediono, wrote

to the World Bank that "we do not

accept some of the analysis in the re-

port," including its message "that the World Bank did not push hard enough for fundamental reform in Indonesia."

triggering a sell-off by investors.

raised. During that time, this residual Serbian police force would operate un-der the direct control of the international verification mission in Kosovo, meaning that they would need permission for all their actions from the outside monitors. After the year, they would all leave. Local police would be trained at the rate of 300 to 400 officers and men

monthly to provide a 3,000-member force within a year, allowing, in effect, the ethnic Albanian guerrilla fighters to take over law enforcement in their own communities. These men, now in the Kosovo Liberation Army, would be required to surrender their heavy weapons to storage depots under the supervision of the NATO force, and they would be banned from carrying light weapons or wearing militia insignia.

"With the Serb heavies gone and a 25,000-strong NATO force cannoning weapons and controlling the turf, the local people's freedom from Serbian public, for fear of poisoning their relationship with the nations' leaders or military control will be guaranteed in the most concrete way imaginable," an official said at NATO headquarters. The implicit message of the findings is one the World Bank and the IMF are Inlian Schweitzer, the World Bank's di-This is the great conundrum," said

Self-government in Kosovo, as outlined in the constitutional annex, would center on elected bodies: a 100-seat assembly controlling taxes and budgets and 30 local councils responsible for issues such as law enforcement, schools, medical care and land use.

This system would accommodate the Serbs, estimated to be 5 percent of the population

These arrangements, a U.S. official exactly as they want - raising their said.

children, reading their own papers, do-ing business with whomever they want - without fear of outside interference or intimidation."

"If the Kosovars refuse this offer, they cannot expect any more help from this administration," a U.S. official said.

■ Serbs Said to Impede Talks

The British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said Thursday that Serbian delegates were blocking the Kosovo peace talks but that the five-power Contact Group would probably grant them more time to strike a deal with their ethnic Albanian foes, Reuters reported from Rambouillet. Mr. Cook emerged from a meeting

with the Serbian president, Milan Milutinovic, to say Belgrade's negotiating team was responsible for delays, saying that the Serbs were sticking to their demand that the ethnic Albanians sign a joint statement of principles, including respect for existing frontiers. The Serbian delegation unilaterally

signed the list of 10 principles that the big powers Contact Group imposed as the basis for the talks. The ethnic Albanian side has refused to sign, fearing that to do so could bar eventual independence.

The arduous talks were originally scheduled for one week, with a review by the Contact Group to decide this weekend whether to keep up the peace quest for another seven days.
"It is likely that this will result in an

the Imerica Executive

-- 西海红毛

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Herald Tribune

BUSINESS/FINANCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1999

Fears of Currency Troubles in '99 Focus on 4 Countries

By Jonathan Fuerbringer

sharp currency plunge in the last month, but four countries are rating a yellow caution flag because they could face problems in raising money and in defending their currencies: Brazil, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

These four countries are not at this time teetering on the brink of disaster, according to financial analysts and economists who rank countries world-

The Thai economy shows signs of stabilizing. The nation has improved its balance of trade, and its currency, the rowings or will be forced to restructure baht, has rebounded 50 percent from its the debt in a way that will burt in-January 1998 low.

The Philippines has been upgraded from a negative credit outlook by Standard & Poor's Corp. after selling \$1 billion of bonds to global investors in January, albeit at interest rates nearly twice the yield on the 10-year Treasury note. Manila plans another sale in Europe in March.

Indonesia is not so well off. Its currency has slumped more sharply than those of Thailand and the Philippines since the Brazilian devaluation.

But financial analysts say these cover. countries and Brazil are vulnerable if

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The global fallout has been limited so far from Brazil's sharp currency plunge in the low state of the countries at risk has a significant amount of debt and interest to pay this year, including bank loans and bonds sold globally to investors. Based on government Each of the countries at risk has a private debt figures compiled by ING Barings, Brazil owes \$53 billion due in the next 12 months, Thailand \$27.8 billion, Indonesia \$27.7 billion and the Philippines \$10.2 billion. The four countries could find it expensive or impossible to raise funds to meet the obligations if investors lose confidence in emerging-market debt.

In Brazil, much of the downward pressure on the real, its currency, has stemmed from fear that the country will Short-term interest rates in Brazil

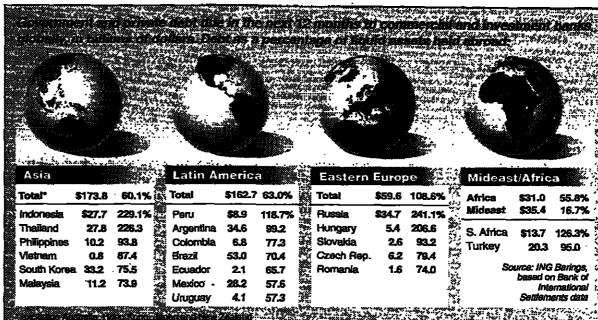
have shot up to about 40 percent, and its long-term debt carries a rate of 15.7

up interest rates elsewhere in Latin America as well. This week, the Brazilian central gov-

emment scrambled to prevent a default

by its second-largest state, Minas Gerais, on \$108 billion in Eurobonds by paying the portion the state could not

Along with needing to raise money in world financial markets tighten up. If the capital markets, all four countries there is another flight from risk by have currencies that would be very hard investors, credit could dry up for them. to defend without raising interest rates If China devalues its currency, the sharply, because they lack the foreign yuan, there could be a fresh run on their reserves needed for vigorous defense action.



Other countries also appear vulnerable but merit less concern because they lack the same combination of debt and

currency weakness. Argentina, for example, is on an ING Barings danger list that concentrates on borrowing needs. But it is not on a Lehman Brothers watch list that focuses on the currency outlook. That is because Argentina has ample dollar reserves and has linked its peso to the

Other countries high on one of the its companies and citizens in banks and two lists are the Czech Republic, Huninvestment banks abroad. gary, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, South

The ING Barings list, compiled un-der the direction of Arturo Porzecanski, chief economist for the Americas, looks trouble," Mr. Porzecanski said. at government and private debt due in stment banks around the world. He tlements. compares each country's total debt due with its liquid assets, as well as those of

Africa, South Korea and Turkey.

investment banks abroad.

This produces a ratio that he uses to rank a country's risk of defaulting. "If what comes due substantially exceeds what is deposited, there could be

He uses bank loan and deposit data the next 12 months to commercial and from the Bank of International Set-

See TURMOIL, Page 12

Barclays Picks U.S. Citizen as Chief

Bank of America Executive Played Role in Two Important Mergers

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON - Barclays PLC said Thursday that it had appointed Michael O'Neill, a Bank of America president, as chief executive, marking the first time a

Britain's second biggest bank by assets porate business." on March 26, filling a vacuum created by

gaining 81 pence, or 5.4 percent, to close comed Mr. O'Neill's appointment.

"Institutional investors were looking for an external candidate to map out a new strategic direction for Barclays, and that is what they've got." said a banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney Inc.

Mr. O'Neill said he intended to continue to support the bank's four businesses, including Barclays Capital, the controversial investment banking operation. Investment banking functions within an institution like Barclays make sense, he said, but "the trick is to make them run well."

Many investors, however, would like drawn up a short list of four external

By Timothy L. O'Brien
New York Times Service

NEW YORK - Last autumn, Visa

International gave three of the largest

U.S. banks extra seats on its board to

appease the banks' concerns that they

got too little bang for their buck from the

of banks that share marketing and pro-

cessing costs for the credit-card network,

had been sparring with the newly merged

banking behemoths, especially Citigroup Inc. and BankAmerica Corp., about how

advertising and related issues should be handled. Additional board seats were

awarded to help calm things down.

But this attempt at détente failed.

And with Citigroup's decision last week to begin giving its business to

MasterCard International instead of

Visa, the war is heating up. At stake are the shape of the credit-card business and

the roles played by the two dominant

About 6,600 banks and other insti-

tutions now issue credit cards, but just

seven companies control two-thirds of all

Euro Values

Fixed rates of the EMU

Visa, which is owned by a consortium

credit-card association.

Barclays to simply sell the unit off.
Richard Prvulovich, equity fund manager for Britain at Investec Guinness Flight, said, "There are many share-holders who would like to see Barclays foreigner will take the top post.

Capital disposed of and Barclays bemer. O'Neill, an American, will join

Capital disposed of and Barclays become a much bluer chip retail and cor-

Last year, Barclays Capital lost \$250 the unexpected resignation of Martin million in Russia, a year after Barclays Buxton, who retires as chairman im-Taylor, who quit in November after a pulled out of equities trading, in what mediately after the annual shareholders' boardroom fend over investment losses was seen as an admission that its theninvestment bank BZW could never rival

Barclays shares jumped on the news, Wall Street firms' global expertise. Mr. O'Neill is currently Bank of at £14.19 (\$23.12) as investors wel- America's president of principal invest- the value of complex organizations," ing and wealth management. He has an extensive record of steering complex

transactions in the United States. As chief financial officer at Bank-America, Mr. O'Neill was the man who put together the financial details of its

merger last year with NationsBank. Four years earlier, he had headed the team that negotiated the tie-up of

BankAmerica and Continental Bank. Barclays said there had been other contenders for the job but Mr. O'Neill was the first choice. Banking sources said earlier in the week that Barclays had

Visa Loses a Skirmish with Citigroup

ing how much leverage the big banks

wield, have been approaching the biggest

credit-card issuers recently with offers of

lower fees in return for transferring most

A Visa spokesman said the company

began pursuing the discount strategy last

year to reward "participation in Visa."
MasterCard declined to comment.

But Citigroup also wanted Visa to promote the Citi brand more on tele-

vision commercials and on the cards.

When the association refused to meet the

bank's demand last week, John Reed,

Citigroup co-chief executive, and an-

other executive from the bank resigned

from Visa's board. Citigroup, the

second-largest card issuer in the country, said it would begin placing new business exclusively with MasterCard, which is

Although Visa has almost twice the

market share of MasterCard, analysts

said consumers carrying Citigroup cards

would notice little change because Mas-

terCard is accepted at almost all the same

cards issued. Analysts expect the credit- Bank America and Bank One Corp. were that already emphasize different

more amenable to its goals.

card business to continue to consolidate. inclined toward his way of thinking. brands.

of their business to just one of the as-

sociations, according to bankers.

candidates for the chief executive post. All four candidates were said to be from the banking industry, unlike Mr. Taylor, whose previous experience had been in textiles and journalism.

Peter Middleton will step down as chief executive when Mr. O'Neill joins, but he will continue as deputy chairman and a director until he succeeds Andrew meeting on April 23.

"Throughout his career, Michael O'Neill has demonstrated his ability to improve the performance and increase Mr. Middleton said.

The bank will pay Mr. O'Neill £2.3 million in salary, bonus, pension and other benefits in the first year. Additionally, Mr. O'Neill will buy £5 million of Barclays stock with his own money, which the bank will match as a performance incentive and hold in trust for

Barclays is the second-largest retail and corporate bank in Britain, and owns Europe's largest credit-card business and the world's biggest institutional fund manager.

among the five largest banks in the

United States, are the biggest banks on

Visa's 11-member board and the only

Bank America, created by last year's

merger of Nationsbank Corp. and

BankAmerica, declined to comment di-

rectly on its relationship with Visa but

appears to be disposed toward Citig-

roup's aims.
"We do remain advocates for changes

in how the card associations operate, not

only in the brand but in the marketing

they do," said Robert Wynne, a

BankAmerica spokesman. BankAmer-

ica is the seventh-largest card issuer,

according to the Nilson Report, a trade

publication based in Oxnard, California.

But Bank One, a product of last year's merger of First Chicago NBD Corp. and

Bank One, seems less inclined to share

he thought branding was not of para-

mount importance to his bank - largely

because Bank One, the leading credit-

Executives who work with John Mc-

Citigroup's views.

places. Mr. Reed asserted recently that card issuer, issues a lot of affinity cards

banks that have two board seats.

Both Visa and MasterCard, recogniz- Citigroup, BankAmerica and Bank One,

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Former Foreign Minister Roland Christine Deviers-Joncour wrote Dumas is still under investigation. of efforts to influence Mr. Dumas. Elf Casts Itself as Victim

It Was Bilked, French Firm Says of Scandal

By Craig R. Whitney

PARIS - A scandal that has tarred France's biggest oil company, Elf Aquitaine SA, has focused publicly on seamy sex and politics.

Its most prominent figures are Roland Dumas, the country's fifth-ranking official, and a former mistress of his who was a lobbyist for Elf.

Details such as the \$2,000 pair of handmade shoes by Berliuti that the British reporters. lobbyist, Christine Deviers-Joncour, "Then the middleman returned says she bought for Mr. Dumas, and her best-selling book, "The Whore of the Republic," have created the impression that the scandal is mainly about the money Mrs. Deviers-Jon-cour says she received from her company to influence Mr. Dumas when he was foreign minister.

But the real scandal, according to the current president of Elf, is the way a small team of executives bilked the world's eighth-largest oil-producing company out of at least \$259 million between 1989 and 1993, when it was

government-owned. "The final figure will probably be much higher," said Philippe Jaffre, Elf's president. "It may be impossible

to determine the total." Mr. Jaffre said that about 10 employees had used secret foreign bank accounts, phony go-betweens, kickbacks and dummy real-estate firms to hide what they were doing.

"Whenever Elf made a big acqui sition or an investment in this period, you find a middleman who sent a bill for a percentage commission, which was paid to an offshore account," he said at a hunch with American and

most of the money to the person behind the fraud. It was classic, textbook embezzlement."

At the time, the company was run by Loik Le Floch-Prigent, who was jailed for six months for questioning by judges investigating the case last year. Mr. Jaffre succeeded Mr. Le Floch-Prigent, 55, a close associate of the late Socialist president. François Mitterrand, as Elf's president after a conservative government came to power in 1993 and privatized the com-

pany the following year.
Mr. Dumas, 76, another friend whom Mr. Mitterrand made France's

See ELF, Page 12

IG Metall **Rules Out** Arbitration

Strike Vote Is Requested Amid Signs of Deadlock

> By John Schmid International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT - IG Metall, the biggest union in Germany, took the first steps toward a strike Thursday, rejecting government arbitration as Bonn leaders grew more worried that labor

tensions would escalate.
Negotiators for the union's most critical bargaining districts declared that talks were deadlocked and petitioned the national board to call a strike ballot. Barring last-minute offers from industry, union leaders are expected to approve a strike ballot Sunday in a meeting at the union's Frankfurt

headquarters.
Such a decision would add momentum to the forces drawing the militant union toward its first strike since 1995. The 2.7 million members would begin voting Feb. 22, setting up the prospect of full-scale walkouts by

"The scenario recalls early 1995," the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said Thursday, referring to the union's last strike, which lasted two weeks. Knowing a strike would devastate business just as Europe's biggest economy is slowing down, a senior official at Gesamtmetall, the industrial employers

hard Schroeder to mediate. Dietrich Kroencke, head of the employers group in Mr. Schroeder's home state of Lower Saxony, said: "We have a chancellor who likes to get involved. Maybe he can bring the two sides back

federation, called on Chancellor Ger-

to the negotiating table." Juergen Peters, the IG Metall vice president who is leading the union to-ward confrontation, quickly rejected the

At this point it is not the right solu-

tion," he said. The union, which is asking for a 6.5 percent wage increase, has rejected an offer that puts a 2.8 percent ceiling on raises, calling it a "provocation."

Labor Minister Walter Riester on

Thursday became the latest government leader to caution both sides.

Mr. Riester, a moderate who held the IG Metall vice presidency before joining the government, particularly urged that the union and employers not en-danger the roundtable talks that are to try to find consensus solutions to the unemployment crisis.

The next round of "Alliance for Jobs" talks involving unions, industry and government is set for Feb. 25, just as union members would be voting on a

In view of the looming strike vote, industry leaders vowed to boycott the roundtable talks, which are the linchpin

of Mr. Schroeder's economic plan. The chancellor also asked the employers to stand behind the talks. 'I can only urge the employers not to endanger the Alliance for Jobs pro-gram," Mr. Schroeder said in a news-

paper interview. "It is what we need to lead the country back to a more competitive position in all sectors."

But if business leaders and economists are correct either an expensive settlement or a strike would lead to new layoffs just as a cooling global economy

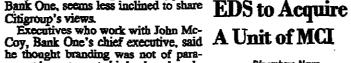
has cut back German exports. Elected on a promise to fight unemployment, Mr. Schroeder cannot afford a further increase in the ranks of the jobless which grew in January to 11.5 percent of the work force from 10.9 percent in

The IG Metall record since German unification shows it is ready to disregard economic trends when it wants an aggressive pay raise. In both 1992 and 1995, just before the economy was about to slow, the union flexed its muscles and won expensive settlements. As a result, economists say, it hastened the recessions of 1993 and 1996, which in turn left armies of new unemployed across Germany.

CURRENCY RATES

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PLANO, Texas - Elec-

tronic Data Systems Corp. agreed Thursday to buy MCI WorldCom Inc.'s Systemhouse computer-management unit for \$1.65 billion.

Under a 10-year agree-ment, EDS will provide services to MCI WorldCom, the second-largest U.S. long-distance phone company, valued at \$5 billion to \$7 billion in revenue — the largest such contract in the telecommunications industry.

MCI WorldCom will manage EDS's voice and data communications for EDS and its customers, a contract valued at \$6 billion to \$8.5 billion in revenue.

Acquiring Systemhouse will help EDS reduce its reliance on contracts from its former parent, General Motors Corp., that accounted for about a quarter of its 1998

revenue: MCI WorldCom is shedding the unit to focus on its

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Very briefly:

- CMGI Inc., the largest Lycos Inc. shareholder, said it would not vote in favor of USA Networks Inc.'s proposed acquisition of the Internet search directory at the current stock price.
- U.S. new-car sales growth weakened in January, but shoppers flocked to department stores as demand drove toward eight years of growth, the Commerce Department said.
- Seagram Co.'s second quarter net profit fell 59 percent as disappointing sales by such films as "Meet Joe Black" overshadowed gains in music and liquor sales for the Hollywood producer and maker of Chivas Regal Scotch whisky. • Cendant Corp. reported a net loss of \$302 million in the fourth quarter because of charges it took to pull out of
- Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. plans a major executive shake-up in a move to cut costs and meet higher profit goals as the insurance giant goes public.

acquisitions and settle a class-action lawsuit.

• Telefonica SA will invest more than \$1.2 billion in Argentina in 1999 in what the Spanish telecommunication company called a show of confidence in the country's eco-Reuters. Bloomberg, NYT, AP

Federated to Acquire Fingerhut

CINCINNATI — Federated Department Stores Inc. said Thursday that it would buy Fingerbut Cos., a catalog retailer, for about \$1.7 billion in cash and debt to expand its Internet and catalog businesses.

The department-store company will pay Fingerhut share-holders \$25 a share in cash, or about \$1.23 billion, and assume its debt. The cash offer alone is a 33 percent premium to the \$18.8125 closing price for Fingerhut shares Wednesday. Fingerhut shares finished Thursday up \$5.6875, at \$24.50. Federated stock fell \$2.8125, to \$39.6875

Greenspan's Confidence Lifts Stocks

Thursday after the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, made glowing comments about the U.S. economy, giving investors optimism that the central bank was not considering

raising interest rates. Computer and financial shares from Compaq and unexpectedly strong earnings from American International Group. Internet shares climbed for the first time in six days, helped by strong demand for Web-related initial public

"The fact that Greenspan said nothmarket - particularly bank stocks," manager at Dreyfus Corp. "Technology American economy has improved in yield holding at 5.36 percent.

stocks are where the earnings perfor- a very significant manner. NEW YORK - U.S. stocks rose mance has been and it's where growth will continue to be.

The Nasdaq Composite index finished 95.97 points higher, at 2,405.47, its biggest advance since Oct. 15. The Dow China, to rise about 20 percent in 1999.

U.S. STOCKS

gained, lifted by an optimistic forecast. Jones industrial average soared 186.15 points, to close at 9,363.46, while the broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index gained 30.48 points, to 1,254.03. Three stocks rose for every two that

fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Greenspan, in testimony before the House Banking Committee, said

after the world's biggest maker of personal computers said it expects shipments

International Business Machines gained 9% to 178½, accounting for more than one-fifth of the Dow average's gain. Dell climbed 4% to 101%. Hewlett-Packard gained 24s to 75. Seagate rose 1/4 to 36 5/16.

AIG, the largest publicly traded U.S. insurer, rose 8 3/16 to 106 15/16 after reporting larger-than-expected earnings.

The government reported Thursday that retail sales climbed 0.2 percent in ing on interest rates benefits the entire stock prices of merging companies had January, the sixth straight monthly ingone up substantially because "the mar- crease. The benchmark 30-year bond said Tim Ghriskey, a senior portfolio kets presume capital efficiency of the was unchanged at 98 10/32, with the

Fed Chairman Is at Odds With Rubin

WASHINGTON - Chairman Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve Board extended his public disagreement Thursday with the White House over the best approach to take in overhauling U.S. financial-services laws.

As Congress began debate this year on legislation to remove Depression-era barriers separating banks, brokerage firms and insurance companies, Mr. Greenspan endorsed a bill proposed by the House Banking Committee chair- along the lines of the operating-subman, Jim Leach, Republican of Iowa. It would give the Fed more power over new financial activities.

be removed in a way that would not surers to get more deeply into each other's ment and the Fed.

threaten the financial system's safety. 'Unless soon repealed, the archaic statutory barriers to efficiency could undermine the global dominance of American finance as well as the continued competitiveness of our financial institutions," he said, adding that changing

Mr. Greenspan was adamant that newly merged financial companies should be structured with bank holding companies plus affiliates, rather than sidiary approach favored by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin.

the laws would benefit consumers.

Both men support revamping the laws Mr. Greenspan said the barriers must by allowing banks, brokerages and in-

businesses. Legislation to do that died in Congress last year after getting-closer to passage than it had in many years.

Mr. Leach's bill has chosen the appropriate structure to combine banking, securities and insurance firms by using financial-service holding companies, Mr. Greenspan said.

On Wednesday, the Clinton administration threw its support behind a competing version of financial overhaul legislation. The bill, proposed by John La-Falce of New York, the House Banking Committee's senior Democrat, would lift barriers between financial industries but preserve the split of regulatory authority between the Treasury Depart-ment and the Fed. (AP, Reuters)

Powerful U.S. Economy Sends Dollar Higher

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputche

against the yen and euro Thursday as in below forecasts, another sign growth still in a downturn." upbeat comments about the U.S. economy from the Federal Reserve Board chairman, Alan Greenspan, lifted U.S.

ing Committee that the economy "is the the dollar this year on expectations for envy of the world" and "functioning lower European interest rates.

exceptionally well."

Comments by two senior Fr

norske Bank, said: "Greenspan is very weighed on the euro, dealers said. bullish and with the strong equity market in the U.S. today, it makes the world a Central Bank, Christian Noyer, said he little happier. Naturally, people want to saw no need for intervention in foreign

In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar was at 114.555 yen, up from 114.450 yen on The U.S. currency also rose against

is slowing in Europe's biggest economy. FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Mr. Greenspan told the House Bank. The euro has dropped 3 percent against

Comments by two senior French eco-Per Norr, a currency trader at Den nomic and monetary officials also The vice president of the European

exchange markets, while Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French finance minister, said the euro's recent decline was

Kathy Jones of Prudential Securities,

High Low Latest Chae Colo

the euro, which fell to \$1.1228 from said, "In the euro, we have had a nice NEW YORK — The dollar rose \$1.1335, after German retail sales came bounce off the recent lows, but we are

> The dollar's gains against the yen may be short-lived, traders said, amid expectations that the Bank of Japan will resist political pressure to buy government bonds to drive down long- term interest rates when its board meets Fri-

> If the central bank does not act to cap rising benchmark bond yields, the yen may gain Friday, analysts said. Five of nine members of the bank's board have spoken against a proposal to increase bond purchases. The dollar was at 1.4275 Swiss francs,

up from 1.4085 francs. The pound fell to \$1.6230 from

(Bloomberg, Bridge News)

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ELF: Company as Main Victim

Continued from Page 11

Compaq gained 2 7/16 to 44 13/16 chief diplomat from 1988 to 1993, has denied any wrongdoing. While the investigation continues, he has also rejected calls to step down from his current post as president of the Constitutional Council, France's highest administrative

He has not disputed the fact of a relationship with Mrs.

Deviers-Joncour. French investigative judges have traced more than \$170 million of company funds to numerous secret bank accounts set up in Switzerland, Luxembourg and other countries by the alleged mastermind of Elf Aquitaine's secret deals, Alfred Sirven, 71, a fugitive, and other close aides of Mr. Le Floch-

On Jan. 27, two judges, Eva Joly and Laurence Vichnievsky, gave lawyers for Mr. Dumas, Mrs. Deviers-Joncour, Le Floch-Prigent and four other former Elf Aquitaine employees 20 days to make any final points before the judges turn over the results of their investigation to other judicial authorities, who will decide whether to issue indicuments and

The case has hardened an old view in France that Elf Aquitaine and other state-owned French companies were used for decades like giant slush funds by successive French governments and political leaders who appointed compliant

cronies to run them. 'Elf did have the reputation of being a slush fund for the state, it's true," Mr. Jaffre, Elf's current chief said, "but it's undeserved. And just because it may have happened in the past doesn't mean that employees were justified in helping them-

If crimes were committed, Elf Aquitaine was the biggest

victim, Mr. Jaffre said. Mrs. Deviers-Joncour, 56, who by her own account did relatively little on behalf of the company, was also imprisoned from Nov. 7, 1997, to April 9 of last year, while the two judges investigated her activities.

In her book, she wrote that she received \$7.75 million from Mr. Sirven, who investigators say was Mr. Le Floch-Prigent's right-hand man, to keep quiet about some of what she knew. But, she said, he demanded and got the money back in cash in

Company officials now say she got \$10.3 million altogether, plus a salary of over \$100,000 a year and free accommodation in a luxury apartment on the Left Bank while she worked for Elf between 1989 and 1993.

Mr. Sirven left Elf Aquitaine in 1993 and moved to Switzerland. He disappeared from there in 1997, and his present whereabouts are unknown. The investigative magistrates took until this year to issue effective international warrants for his

According to Mrs: Deviers-Joncour, it was Mr. Sirven who, apparently in 1989, ordered her to try to get Mr. Dumas to drop his objections to the \$2.7 billion sale to Taiwan of six frigates being built by Thomson-CSF, which was also state-owned at

She wrote that Mr. Dumas rejected all her attempts to influence him on the proposed sale, but, motivated by the prospect of a \$7.75 million commission Mr. Sirven dangled before her, she kept pestering the foreign minister.

The sale went through in 1991, but both Mrs. Deviers-Joncour and Mr. Dumas have told investigators that the decision was made not by the foreign minister but by Mr. Mitterrand, who had concluded that Mr. Dumas's fears that French relations with China would be harmed were not ;

The judges have been trying to determine whether Mr. Dumas received any money from Mrs. Deviers-Joncour in return for decisions favorable to Elf while he was foreign

Mr. Dumas has said that \$461,000 in cash bank deposits during that time were payments for past legal services or proceeds from the sale of art works and that he never received a centime from Mrs. Deviers-Joncour.

TURMOIL: Will It Spread?

Continued from Page 11

The data show that Russia's debt is equal to 241 percent of its deposits abroad. Indonesia is second at 229 percent, followed by Thailand at 226 percent, Hungary at 207 percent. South Africa ranks fifth at 126 percent, and Argentina comes in just under 100 percent.

Brazil, which spent about \$30 billion in reserves defending its currency, will break into the Top 10 when the loan and asset 👵 data is updated in May, Mr. Porzecanski said.

Venezuela, which has a new president, has been named by many investors as a potential casualty of the Brazilian currency woes. But it is No. 30 on Mr. Porzecanski's watch list, which is formally known as the Sovereign Liquidity Risk Indicator. "Venezuela," he said, "may be safer than many think, as its short-term liabilities are greatly exceeded by its assets, both

official and private." The Lehman Brothers list, formerly known as the Foreign Exchange Liquidity Vulnerability Ranking, uses a risk barometer based on a country's dollar reserves. This reserve level is compared with the hypothetical amount needed to make a full defense against capital flight without resorting to

unsustainable high interest rates. By this measure, Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea, and Mexico rank No. 2 to No. 6 and are still extremely

China is No. 1, but it has certain controls on its economy and a currency that is not convertible. "So it would be tough to put

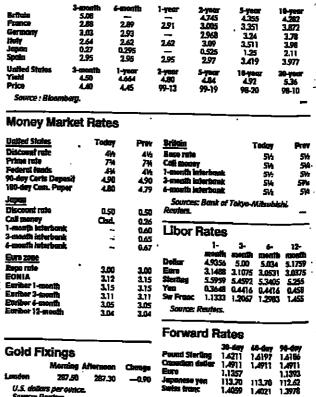
a currency man is not convertible. So it would be lough to put together a run against the central bank," said Jose Barrionuevo, Lehman's director of global market strategy.

A deepening currency crisis in Brazil would not be the kind of catalyst that it would have been last October, Mr. Barrionuevo said. A Chinese devaluation, though, would probably lead to another run on currencies in emerging markets, he predicted.

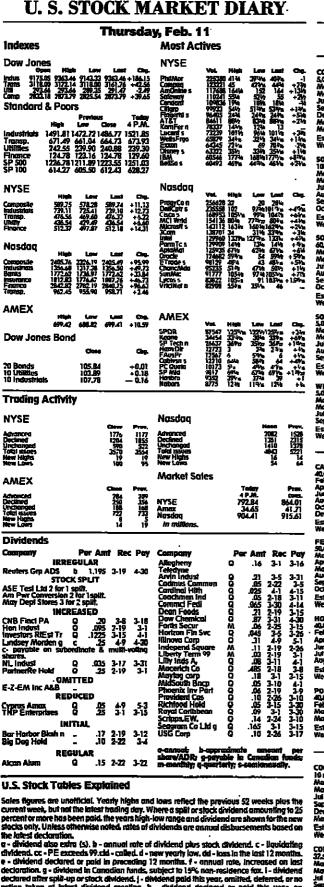
Other Asian countries would feel pressured to let their currencies fall so that their exports would be competitive with China's wide range of exported products.

INTEREST RATES

Government Debt 291 262 295 5-year 4.355 3.351 3.24 3.511 1.25 3.419



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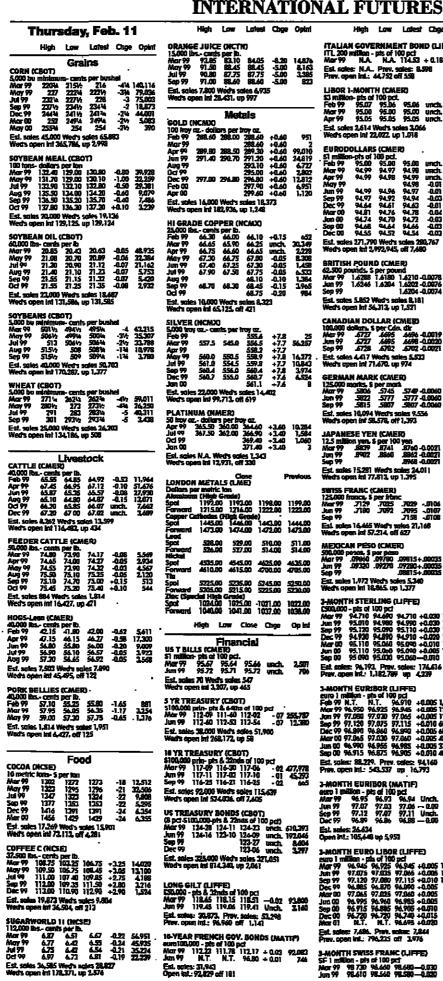
a - dividend also extra (S), b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend, c - liquidating dividend, c - PE exceeds 99 cid- called, d - new yearly low, dd - loss in the last 12 months.

a - dividend declared or paid in proceeding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration, g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence fax. I - dividend declared fire spid-inp or stock dividend, j - dividend paid this year, annithed, determed, an action taken of latest dividend months, k - dividend declared or paid this year, or action taken of latest dividend months, k - dividend declared or paid this year, annithed, determed no necumulative issue with dividends in arrears, are - annual rate, reduced on last declaration.

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2-MONTH EURO LIBOR (LIFFE) See our Entertainment every Wednesday 16-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATTP) eurn100,000 - pis ef 100 pcf Marr 9F 1122 111.78 112.17 + 0.03 92.082 Jan 9F N.T. 96.90 + 0.01 746 Est. ostes: 31,401 Open tot. 29.829 off 181 in The Intermarket

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EUROPE

Euro Marvel: Greece Rivals U.S. in Bond Yields Oil Prices aligned their economies for Euro- ments Ltd. put it. Greece is "piggy- yields within reach of those in

ATHENS - Greece, where inflation was running at 16 percent just a few years ago, may soon pay less to borrow money than the U.S.

In all likelihood, yields on 10year Greek government bonds, now about 5.89 percent, will slip below this year or next, fund managers

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said. The gap is less than a percentage point today - and closing. Is Greece a better credit risk than Uncle Sam? Greece, where one person in 10 is out of work and where bureaucrats take leave to pick

No. The Hellenic Republic is just potent example of convergence, a phenomenon that has accompanied the shift toward a single European currency - and one investors can

pean Economic and Monetary un-backing" on its neighbors repuion. Eleven countries, among them tations. Germany and France, adopted the in 2001.

"The whole point of EMU was to about 5.89 percent, will slip below eous capital market," said Thomas those on 10-year U.S. Treasuries Carpenter of ASB Capital Management in Washington. "Once Greece moves into EMU, it will merit those

> Bond yields in Germany, the largest economy in Europe, have already slid below their U.S. counterparts. European inflation is so low that investors can accept lower yields without forfeiting their real return. The annual inflation rate of 0.8 percent in the 11-member monetary union is less than half that in the United States.

Greece is benefiting from the di-For almost a decade, borrowing rection of rates in euro countries costs across the Continent have been such as Germany. As Andrew world, but the pull of the European uries. Only closing in on one another as nations Snowball of Julius Baer Invest-monetary union is drawing Greek did better.

Not everyone is sure Greece will euro on Jan. 1. Greece plans to do so be allowed into the monetary union in two years. A resurgence of inflation - bondholders biggest encreate a single, seamless, homogenemy and the nation's thorniest economic problem in the past - could

temporarily shut the door

bonds.

That is why Greece still pays more for its money than most other European countries, including Germany, where yields are the lowest on the Continent. Ten-year German bonds pay about 3.80 percent, 2 percentage points less than Greek

Many investors are betting on the monetary union and on Greece, whose 10- year bonds offer the highest yields in Europe. Yields in the U.S. Treasury market may determine the interest rates paid by companies and investors around the

America.

Greek bonds have rallied relentlessly since October, with the yield on bonds due in 2008 tumbling to 6.08 percent from 8.75 percent.

The result: the gap between Greek yields and comparable U.S. vields narrowed to 1.19 percentage points from 2.91 points. Greece's long bond, due in 2014, pays just 0.6 of a point more than the 30-year Treasury, the most widely followed yield in the world.

of the risk investors perceive in Greek debt, they are pointing to fair weather.

The showing has helped make difficult in the short term. Greece a stand-out performer among global bond markets.

Measured in dollars, the Greek 2008 bond returned 24.53 percent in the past year, more than twice the return on seven- to 10-year Treasuries. Only British and Italian bonds

Leave Shell With Loss

LONDON - Royal Dutch/ Shell Group said Thursday that it lost \$3.74 billion in the fourth quarter, driving its full-year profit sharply lower, on losses in its chemicals unit As those spreads are a barometer and falling crude oil prices.

Control of the Control of Farm Distractor

The company, which earned \$1.63 billion in the fourth quarter of 1997, said improvement would be "In Europe and the U.S., a pos-

sible economic slowdown could affect oil demand growth and may restrict any further upswing in the margins," the company said. The company reported net in-come of \$350 million for all of 1998,

compared with \$7.75 billion in 1997, a 95 percent drop. On a current-cost-of-supplies basis, with special charges included, the company reported adjusted earnings of \$5.14 billion, down 36 percent from the 1997 figure of \$8.03 billion.

Shell's shares fell 1.00 euro (\$1.13) to 38.55 in Amsterdam and dropped 6.75 pence (11 cents) to 332.50 in London. Royal Dutch/Shell's perfor-

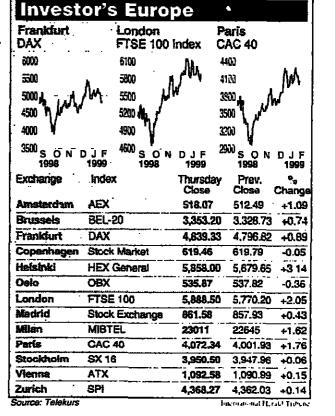
mance was sapped by a 33 percent decline in oil prices in the last 12 months and by overcapacity in the chemicals industry and low product prices, especially in Asia, where several countries are in recession. Shell took \$4.4 billion in charges

as part of a restructuring plan the company announced in December to write off assets from refineries to chemical plants and cut investment and costs as world oil prices linger near 11-year lows.

Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of the company's committee of managing directors, said Shell's results were worse than for some of its competitors. "What is inescapable is that we have allowed the competition to overtake us," he said. But I can tell you that we will reverse this situation by implementing the remedial measures we announced in December.'

Those included plans to dispose of eight chemicals business, close four national head offices and reduce investment by a third.

Mr. Moody-Stuart said the group was on course to achieve a 14 percent return on average capital employed by 2001 - provided that oil prices reached an average of \$14 a barrel by that time. Brent crude oil is now selling at about \$10 a barrel and is likely to stay there for some time, (AP. Bloomberg) 1999.



Very briefly:

• Investor AB, the main financial company of the Wallenberg business empire, said net asset value rose 6 percent in 1998. It also named Marcus Wallenberg chief executive, succeeding Claes Dahlbaeck.

 Philips Electronics NV's net profit more than doubled, to 13.34 billion guilders (\$6.87 billion), in 1998, mainly from the sale of its 75 percent stake in the PolyGram entertainment

• British Telecommunications PLC's third-quarter pretax profit fell 16 percent, to £858 million (\$1.39 billion), as continued losses overseas offset strong growth in domestic fixed-line and mobile sales.

 Cookson Group PLC is cutting 700 jobs, or 4.5 percent of its work force, and taking £70.5 million in charges, though the British-based parent of an international manufacturing group said the fourth-quarter business climate had proved better than it had warned. • Touristik Union International, a unit of Europe's biggest

tourism company, Preussag AG, bought a 50.1 percent stake in the German travel and tourism company L'TUR for an • AB Volvo's 1998 profit after financial items fell 12 percent,

to 11.62 billion kronor (\$1.47 billion), in line with market expectations of 11.64 billion kronor. But sales rose 16 percent, to 212.9 billion kronor. • German retail sales fell 4.7 percent in December against a

year earlier, but economists said the results were due to the fact that stores were open only three Saturdays in December, compared with four in December 1997. Lufthansa AG signed an agreement with SNCF to sell

tickets for French trains as Europe's second-biggest airline seeks to expand into France. The pact with the French national railway operator lets Lufthansa passengers use high-speed trains from Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport to the cities of Lyon, Nantes and Saint-Pierre-des-Corps. • Clariant AG's 1998 sales fell 6 percent, in line with

expectations, and the Swiss specialty chemicals company. said it still expected to report higher profit for 1998 and

RUSSIA: A Bank Scandal Emerges

Continued from Page 1

ecutor, surprised many members of the Duma with his letter outlining charges that Fimaco, based in the Channel Islands, with a charter capital of only £1,000 (\$1,600), secretly handled the Russian currency reserves between 1993 and 1998.

Boris Fyodorov, who was finance minister in 1993, told reporters that he repeatedly asked the head of the central bank, Viktor Gerashchenko, about the reserves. "But I ran up against a wall of silence," he said. They refused to provide me with any information.

He added, "I was told that the central bank was a separate organization and I am meddling in things that are not within my brief." Mr. Gerashchenko headed the

central bank until 1994 and was reappointed late last year. In reality," Mr. Fyodorov said were given a chance to make some

When billions of dollars are pumped through some company makov, who is trying to persuade the without any risk, when someone International Monetary Fund, and

Mr. Gerashchenko has reportedly sealed a more detailed report on the but has made no visible moves to

about Fimaco, which he said was a unit of Eurobank, one of the central bank's foreign subsidiaries.

WOI

lions of dollars.

"The central bank technically could not handle its foreign reserves in the early 1990s on its own.'

But he has also claimed the device was used to hide assets from the London Club and Paris Club creditors who hold Soviet-era debt. They might have tried to seize central bank assets during debt restructur-ing negotiations in 1994, he said. Sergei Dubinin, who was central

bank chief in the mid-1990s until resigning after the Aug. 17 ruble devaluation last year, attacked Mr. Skuratov's allegations in an open letter Thursday to President Boris Yeltsin, also signed by his former deputy, Sergei Alexashenko.

They said the estimate of \$50 billion being passed through Fimaco was too high: that Fimaco was set up earlier, in 1990, and the last money taken out in 1997. They claimed the company was used to shield the currency reserves from seizure by of the currency reserves, "friends courts and insisted that the secret company should be kept that way.

The scandal could prove sticky for Prime Minister Yevgeni Prigets a certain permission, it turns out other Western creditors, to give run," he said. "This is tens of mil-Moreover, Mr. Primakov has

vowed a crackdown on corruption unveil the full details of the inves-He has given conflicting accounts tigation of the central bank. Mr. Gerashchenko is backed by

Mr. Primakov's allies in the Communist Party, while Mr. Dubinin In remarks to the Duma, he said, was close to the reformers.

LVMH Seeks Board Seat To Influence Gucci Directly

world's leading luxury-goods stock has been surprising.

LVMH wants to put Umberto seeking a seat on Gucci Group stake in the Italian fashion house. largest French food retailer.

LVMH asked Gucci to hold a consider adding a ninth member to its board. Gucci said its supervisory

board would review the request in the coming days, although it was determined to chart its own course under its chief executive, Domenico De Sole, and the Texan designer Tom Ford, a team that put glamour and profits back into

stake in Gucci four times in January, fueled speculation that it wanted to buy the Amsterdambased company. That prospect has led Gucci stock to rise more brought it back to profit in 1994.
than 40 percent so far this year.

LVMH, which is headed by the than 40 percent so far this year.

in the company, Gucci said. "This has all been very

in Gucci gives it a concentration

of BancBoston Robertson Steph-

Bloomberg News ens. LVMH has been "very ag-AMSTERDAM — Moet Hengressive" in its pursuit, she said, nessy Louis Vuitton SA, the and the movement of Gucci's

Guida on Gucci's board. Mr. NV's board to anchor its influence Guida is former managing direcafter amassing a 34.4 percent tor of Promodes SA, the second-

Ms. Kloppenburg said the respecial shareholders' meeting to quest to fill a board seat was no surprise. "With almost 35 percent of the company, they certainly deserve it," she said.
For LVMH, which owns the

Christian Dior fashion house and the Louis Vuitton luxury brand, a takeover of Gucci would give it control of another brand of leather bags and fashion. Gucci would get the backing of a company more than eight times its size and access LVMH, which increased its to a bigger sales network.

The Gucci company has become increasingly attractive since Mr. De Sole, a Harvard-educated lawyer, and Mr. Ford, the designer,

The Competition Office of the chief executive and controlling European Commission is inves-tigating whether LVMH's stake been adding to its holdings this year. On Wednesday, Giuseppe Brusone, managing director of Giorgio Armani SpA, said LVMH bizarre." said Janet Kloppenburg had approached Armani about "integrating" the two companies.

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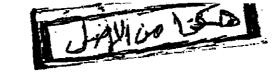
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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1999 PAGE 15 NASDAQ Control of the contro **AMEX** "你我妈妈妈看你一大妈妈妈 S CA - COLOR STATE OF THE STATE 本事を東京には大きななるできるであるというないできる THE THE STATE OF T THE SHAPE PARTY SHAPE SH Martin (III)
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Very briefly:

- General Motors Corp. resumed talks with Daewoo Motor Co. about a possible alliance with South Korea's second largest automaker.
- Cambodia's garment exports climbed 66 percent in value last year as the number of its factories nearly doubled from the previous year, a senior Commerce Ministry official said.
- Japanese banks plan to slash their overseas operations as part of restructuring moves required for an injection of government funds. Japanese newspapers said. Among the banks shutting foreign branches, subsidiaries and other bases abroad are Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co., Tokai Bank Ltd., Mitsubishi Trust & Banking Corp. and Asahi Bank Ltd.
- Singapore Airlines Ltd. signed an order for as many as 10 Airbus Industrie A340-500 planes valued at as much as \$2.2 billion, a sign that Asia's airlines may be about to turn a comer. • Singapore will allow foreign banks greater access to its domestic banking sector, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said, adding that the country will take bolder steps toward liberalization over the next five years.
- CITIC Pacific Ltd. cut its consolidated total debt to less than 19 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$2.4 billion) from 22 billion dollars at the end of 1997.
- Choi Soon Young, chairman of Shin Dong Ah Group, a South Korean insurer, was arrested on charges of embezzlement and illegally shipping money out of the country through U.S. banks, prosecutors said. Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP

Departure At Top Hits Westpac

SYDNEY - The managing director of Westpac Banking Corp., Robert Joss, said Thursday he would

leave the bank after a successful six years at the belm. His announce-David Morgan, who joined Westpac

in 1990 after a long career at the was named Mr. Joss's successor, on Thursday, it increased those plans profitability. effective March 1 Mr. Morgan. 51, has run each of Westpac's key operations and is in

charge of the institutional and international banking division. Westpac's chairman, John Uhrig, immediately moved to reassure financial markets that Mr. Joss had left the bank in a strong financial calming words and began selling Westpac shares. They closed at

share, down 0.30. Mr. Joss was highly regarded in the bank sector for turning around the fortunes of one of Australia's big four banks, and it was thought likely he would remain in charge for at least the next two years, especially after the American-born executive had taken out Australian cifizenship and often said he regarded himself

as a local. He joined the Sydney head office from Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco, lured in part by an options package valued at about 35 million dollars and an annual salary of 2.4 million dollars last year.

Mr. Joss is credited with steering Westpac from a record annual loss of 1.56 billion dollars incurred six months before he joined to a profit of 1.32 billion dollars in 1998, achieved by refocusing the bank on its Australian business and slicing costs and problem loans.

(Reuters, AFP, Bloomherg)

Nissan Diesel to Shut Unit and Cut More Jobs

By Stephanie Strom New York Times Service

TOKYO - Stepping up its efforts to overhaul its struggling op-erations, Nissan Diesel Motor Co. Nissan Diesel, said the steps an-nounced Thursday would save the said Thursday that it would close its company 150 billion yen (\$1.31 bilsecond-largest manufacturing facility and reduce its labor force more restore it to profitability in the fidramatically than previously nancial year that begins April 1. nianned.

ment surprised the market and also plans to merge with its sales triggered some selling of Westpac unit. Nissan Diesel Sales, by March The bank's executive director, merged company to seven or eight less companies is severely questavid Morgan, who joined Westpac directors from the current 14. tioned," Mr. Nakazawa said,

lion) over the next three years and tional holiday in Japan.

In the year that ended last March. The company, the troubled truck Nissan Diesel had a loss of 1.11 manufacturing affiliate of the billion yen on an unconsolidated equally troubled Nissan Motor Co., basis. It is expected to lose money again in the current financial year. "This is a time when the jus-

31, 2000, and cut the board of the tification for the existence of profit-In October, Nissan Diesel said it adding that he had an "indomitable Treasury Department in Canberra, would eliminate 2,500 jobs by 2001; resolve" to restore the company to

Hirofumi Nakazawa, president of current negotiations to buy at least a midsize trucks, puts it at the forefront Nissan Diesel, said the steps an- portion of Nissan Motor's 39.8 percent stake in Nissan Diesel was unclear Thursday, which was a na-

> DaimlerChrysler and Nissan Motor have been in discussions over the cent, although it has not yet specified stake since May, but negotiations have bogged down over Nissan Diesel's debts, which some analysts estimate are as high as 400 billion yen, including off-balance sheet liabil-

The new plans could be an effort by Nissan Diesel to show Daimler-Chrysler that it can reposition its business, although Mr. Nakazawa denied that they were aimed at having an impact on the discussions.

Nissan Diesel's announcement by 500 jobs, bringing the total jobs to be cut to 3,000, or almost 25 percent of its work force.

What the sudden acceleration of the company's ongoing overhaul that it will close its Ota plant in Gunna Prefecture, where it makes said about DaimlerChrysler AG's of Japanese companies moving to address excess production capacity, Toyota Motor Corp., the largest Japanese carmaker, said recently that it would reduce its capacity by 13 perhow it will reach that goal.

Nissan Diesel said it would begin producing its midsize trucks at its main Ageo plant in Saitama Prefecture this year. The Ageo plant will lose its casting department, which makes components for diesel engines, transmissions and other vehicle parts.

The company also plans to reduce \$ the number of models by 20 percent, which will help it reduce costs.

China Industrial Output Rises Amid Government Outlays

position, but investors ignored the output surged 17.9 percent in Janu- rose 10 percent, in sharp contrast to ary from a year earlier, growing at the 1 percent growth registered a more than double the rate of ex- year earlier. Cement production was 10.20 Australian dollars (\$6.59) a pansion in 1998, the Xinhua press gency reported Thursday, citing the State Statistics Bureau.

Industrial output reached 151 bil-lion yuan (\$18.24 billion) following government efforts to invigorate the economy through heavy spending.

Power generation a key baromet-BEIJING - Chinese industrial er of activity in the industrial sector, up 37.2 percent in the year through January, while heavy industry as a

whole grew 19.1 percent. frastructure spending program last year as economic and industrial growth slowed alarmingly.

indicates that the country has at last east Asian markets are also affected dragged its industrial sector out of the doldrums thanks to the government's pump-priming measures," the China Daily said.

But economists were reserving judgment on the increase in output China launched a \$12 billion in- until the release of data for February. Chinese economic statistics consumers this year much of their shopping until February.

(AFP, Bloomberg)

"A steep rise in the growth rates the Lunar New Year festival. Southby the festival.

The festival this year falls in mid-February, compared with the end of January last year. For instance, the later date for the festival may mean that retail spending in January appears weaker than a year earlier as

Coca-Cola Picks American as Chairman of Amatil Unit

SYDNEY — Coca-Cola Co. cemented its grip on its partly owned Australian subsidiary Thursday, naming a U.S.-based executive as the next chairman of the unit.

Coca-Cola, with 43 percent of Sydney-based Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd., will place Joe Gladden, as world's biggest soft-drink maker, Amatil, and that's the concern,' chairman of the subsidiary, the has lately been exercising more aulargest bottler of the company's thority removing managers of the Macquarie Investment Managesoft-drinks in the Asia Pacific. Mr. Gladden will replace Dean structural changes to the organiza-

April 16 after 15 years as chair- ecutive who was dismissed.

pendence, the perception of control by Atlanta-based Coca-Cola has worried investors. Coca-Cola,, the subsidiary and making important ment Ltd.

Wills when Mr. Wills retires on tion, according to one former ex-

Investors also are wary about While Mr. Wills has long pro- Coca-Cola's ability to raise the price when he was admitted to hospital claimed Coca-Cola Amatil's inde- of its soft-drink syrup, which would with a blood clot, also contributed to squeeze Coca-Cola Amatil's profit. his decision.

What's good for Coke, is not necessarily good for Coca-Cola said Geoff Wells, fund manager at

Mr. Wills, 65, said he was step-

ping down to spend more time with his grandchildren and to pursue other interests. A health scare last year,

Coca-Cola Amatil earlier reported second-half profit of 100 million Australian dollars (\$64.6 million), as its new South Korean unit, bought as part of the worldwide reorganization of Coca-Cola, contributed more than some analysts had anticipated.

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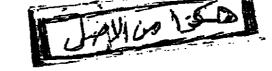
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when Asia slipped into re- difficult to borrow. cession last year, as it had just cated in the region.

Undeterred, the Perth-based coal miner switched steelmakers.

Bloomberg News

was deteriorating, so we redoubled our efforts to sell the coal in Europe," said David for more than two years. Macoboy, Portman's finance director. It paid off. Portman now sells half its coal in Europe, double the proportion in 1997.

The same is true for many other Australian companies, making the economy the surprise story of 1998 with estimated growth of 4.5 percent, while many Asian neighbors contracted.

Long considered world's quarry, with its abundance of gold, coal and nickel, Australia shrugged off plunging commodity prices thanks to a weaker currency. an ability to tap new markets and rising personal wealth.

Companies are quick to salute the government for keeping interest rates and inflation low. It also put money in the pockets of consumers by selling some of its biggest companies.
BRL Hardy Ltd., the top-

selling Australian winemaker in Britain, says Australia's monetary policy helps it

"It's not what makes it happen but what makes it possible," said Stephen Millar, the company's chief executive, noting that the policy allowed the company to present long-term business plans to lenders.

with a gain of 6 percent.

BRL invested 100 million dollars (\$38.9 million) to and high-speed bottling facil- the U.S. dollar over the past creases" in earnings. half of its customers were lo- seas demand. In three years, it a competitive edge. doubled export sales to 120

million dollars. cent and 3 percent a year. The ions and started selling its tralia's other exports include "We knew that the outlook annual inflation rate ran at 1.6 stakes in industry. percent in the fourth quarter

> pected to slow this year, of once-powerful unions. It country's high tariffs.
>
> "we're still going to do a lot can now negotiate wages and better than the rest of the conditions directly with its were subject to a 57.5 percent world," said Bill Evans, general manager of economics at Westpac Banking Corp.
> The economy grew 5 per-

fell to its lowest in eight years that's helped productivity a in December, and consumer lot," said the executive dispending rose to a record in rector, Chris Lalor. Gwalia cut the final quarter of last year. Investors are taking note.

The benchmark stock index rose to a record last week, and the currency is also on the an ounce of gold. rise, making the Australian

"If you have inflation run- dollar the world's best-per- fore one-time items jumped SYDNEY — Portman ning rampant" or high interest forming currency so far this rates, he said, it becomes more year against the U.S. dollar, ended last June. In Novemnational manager of public policy of the control of But the Australian dollar is told shareholders to expect Ltd. To remain in the domesspent 58 million Australian dollars in bigger vineyards still down 15 percent against further "substantial in-

double its output even though ities to meet booming over- two years, giving companies. Australia's reliance on commodity exports has di-Companies say the roots of minished. Raw materials such success can be traced back 15 as coal, gold, wheat and wool In 1995, the newly elected years to when the government made up 57.8 percent of all tack, taking advantage of a coalition government gave allowed the currency to trade export earnings last year, weakening Australian dollar the central bank a mandate to freely. More recently, it down from almost three-to secure orders from German keep inflation between 2 per-curbed the power of labor unquarters in 1980. Now, Aus-

> cars as well as wines. Sons of Gwalia Ltd., Aus-The broadening of its range and has been below 2 percent tralia's sixth-ranked gold of exports was encouraged in miner, benefited from legal the mid-1980s as the govern-

> > conditions directly with its employees rather than accept tax, which sheltered domestic an industrywide covenant put carmakers and spawned a big, unproductive work force.
> > The tax is now 17.5 percent in place by a national arbiter.
> > We can have workers do-

cent in the third quarter from a judgment ing 12-hour shifts, which we and is to be cut to 15 percent in year earlier. Unemployment couldn't do 15 years ago — 2000 and 10 percent in 2005. 2000 and 10 percent in 2005.

its work force by 30 percent in that time, helping shave about cent, off the cost of producing crease exports to stay com-, company, and Qantas Air-petitive. company, and Qantas Air-ways Ltd., the No. 1 airline. The company's profit be- petitive.

"It was a case of export or ber, Chairman Peter Lalor affairs at Toyota Australia tic market, where it was the No. 1 seller last year, Toyota built a new factory near Melbourne and revved up ex-ports. Last year it sold cars overseas valued at 600 mil-

lion dollars, up from 50 million dollars in 1990. Companies also have welcomed a gradual cut in borrowing costs. The Reserve Bank has reduced its benchmark interest rate 2.5 percentage points since mid-1996, bringing the rate to 4.75 per-Even though growth is ex- changes that loosened the grip ment began lowering the cent in December. Home mortgage rates are at their lowest levels in more than 30 were subject to a 57.5 percent years. That, together with better wages - the average weekly wage has risen 25 percent in five years - has ig-

nited consumer spending. Australia also is enjoying the wealth created on the The final target is 2.5 percent. stock market by a wave of As Australian companies sales of government busibegan to face more compenesses, such as Commontition from cheaper imports, wealth Bank of Australia Ltd. their small domestic market the country's second-biggest 100 dollars, or nearly 20 per- of only 18 million people bank, Telstra Corp., the dommeant that they had to in- inant telecommunications

Australia's Policies Keep Asia's Malaise Away Very briefly:

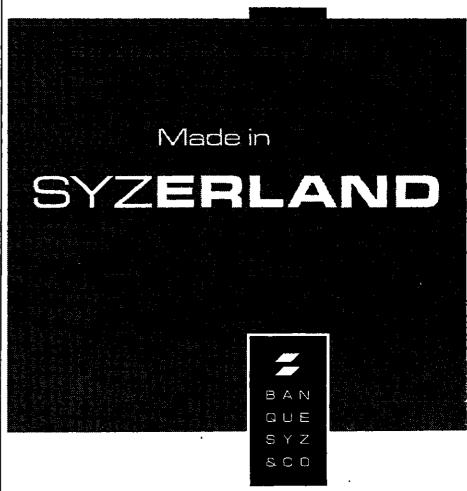
• Capital of the Middle East Ltd. said it • Foreign investment in Shanghai slumped would be among the first big foreign investors 24 percent last year to \$3.68 billion as the to return to Indonesia, putting in \$250 million Asian financial crisis took its toll, and Chinese to \$300 million and starting by buying as officials predicted more pain for the commuch as 19 percent of Bhakti Investama, an mercial city, with foreign investment of only investment company.

\$3 billion for 1999.

• Marketwatch.com Inc., a financial news • Saatchi & Saatchi PLC shares appear service, posted a fourth-quarter loss of \$4.2 likely to rise, analysts said, citing new busimillion, or 47 cents a share, in its first earnings ness pulled in by the British advertising report since going public Jan. 15. It said revenue was up 41 percent from the third quarter, at \$2.5 million.

less punced in by the British advertising agency and an increase in ad spending by two of its key clients, Procter & Gamble Co. and Toyota Motor Corp.

Reuters, Bloomberg



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E*Trade Insiders Sold Stock Before System Failed

vestors in E*Trade Group Inc., the online brokerage firm whose trading system failed for several hours during last week. E*Trade shares closed Wed- General Atlantic spokesman, declined parts of three days last week, sold big nesday at \$42.75, up \$2.5625. chunks of stock just before the problems occurred.

The two largest individual sharehold-Alto, California, and its second-largest ware company, did not sell any shares. lems occurred and were to have taken chief information officer.

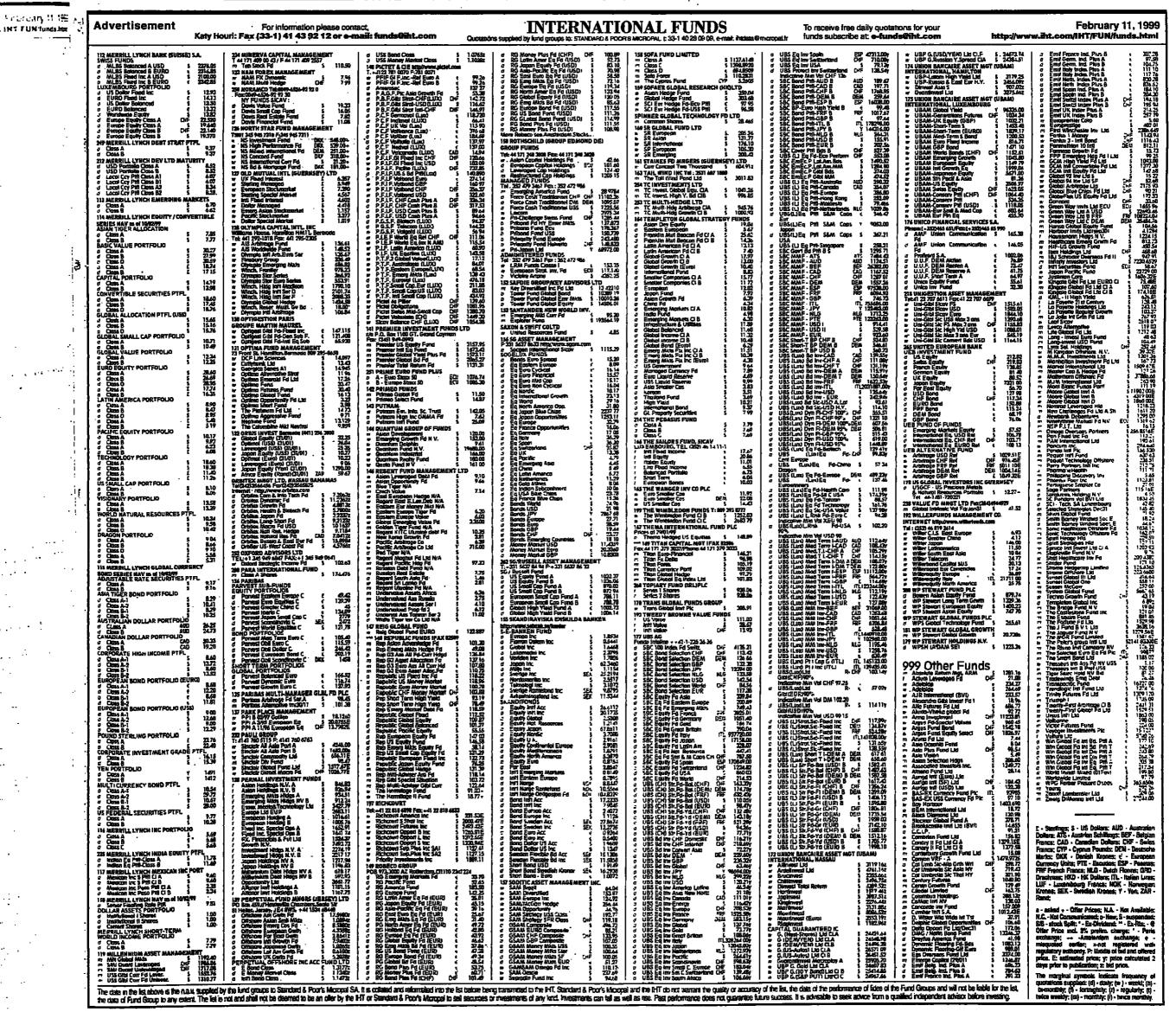
Shares of E*Trade soared from \$5 on place Feb. 2 and Feb. 3. NEW YORK - Several major in- Oct. 8 to \$66.4375 on Feb. 1 but fell sharply after clients could not execute trades on the last three trading days of

General Atlantic Partners, a venturecapital fund based in Greenwich. Connecticut, and an affiliate, GAP ers in E*Trade, which is based in Palo Coinvestment, sold 4.2 million shares. or about 48 percent of their E*Trade institutional shareholder all sold large holdings, according to Lisa Nash, an blocks. The company's biggest in- E*Trade Group vice president. The vestor, Softbank Corp., a Japanese soft- sales were registered before the prob- founder, and Debra J. Chrapary, the

The sales were dictated by the fund's "very strict investment-policy discipline," Ms. Nash said. Tom Murphy, a

Christos Cotsakos, the chairman and chief executive of General Atlantic who has the second-largest individual stake, and his family sold 370,000 shares, lowering their stake to 2.6 percent from 2.9 percent. Also selling large blocks were William Porter, E*Trade's

to comment.



Herald Eribune SPORTS

2 Tie at 67 in Dubai

GOLF Paul McGinley and Phil Price avoided the fierce rough Thursday to shoot 67s and share the lead after the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic, Jose Maria Olazabal, the defending champion, shared the lead with one hole to play, but double-bogeyed the 18th after driving into water. (AFP)

4 Held in Betting Scam

SOCCER The police in London arrested four men in connection with a betting scam that involved games

being stopped by light failures.
The four were arrested on suspicion of burglary at Charlton Athletic's stadium, The Valley, on Wednesday night. Police would not identify them.

Scotland Yard has been investigating several matches that were called off halfway through when the lights went out.

Detectives are investigating a power failure at a Wimbledon vs. Arsenal game at Selhurst Park, which followed previous problems at Derby and West Ham. The lights went off seconds into the second half when the score was 0-0.

Fired — by His Mother

FOOTBALL Michael McCaskey was removed as president of the Chicago Bears in the wake of a bungled coaching announcement.

McCaskey was moved to chairman of the board. The restructuring was announced by his mother — Virginia Halas McCaskey, majority stockholder and daughter of the founder of the team, George Halas. Ted Phillips, vice president for football operations and chief financial officer, was named president.

Dave McGinnis turned down the coaching job after McCaskey announced his hiring prematurely.

• The New Orleans Saints will not re-sign the quarterback Kerry Collins. Mike Ditka, the Saints coach, cited the 14 turnovers Collins committed as the main reason. The Saints claimed him from the Carolina Panthers on Oct. 14 but were 2-5 in games he started. (AP)

Owners 3, Players 0

BASEBALL The Los Angeles Dodgers beat Mark Grudzielanek in salary arbitration Thursday, giving owners a 3-0 lead in cases decided this year. The infielder will be paid \$1.9 million rather than the \$2.6 million he sought. (AP)

WORLD ROUNDUP France Wins At Wembley, 2-0, a First **Since 1957**

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputche

LONDON - World champion France, wearing its mantle with grace and ease, may be looking toward a sustained period of European soccer domination following Wednesday's com-fortable 2-0 victory over England at Wembley.
The victory, France's first at Wemb-

ley in five appearances going back to

WORLD SOCCER 1957, came on two second-half goals

from Nicolas Anelka. "We are not world champions for beamed French coach Roger

Lemerre. "It won't be long before Wembley is knocked down and rebuilt. and it's a great pleasure for a French team to come here and win.' Playing against three defenders who are teammates for the London club Ar-

senal, Anelka hit the crossbar in the 63d minute with a shot that appeared to cross the goal line, then scored in the 69th and 76th minutes, both good finishes, after Zinedine Zidane, the world player of the year, had cut through England with

"He has scored not two goals but three," Lemerre said. "As far as I am concerned, the first one was a goal."

The game at Wembley may not have had Euro 2000 qualifying points at stake. but there was no question about its im-

against England at Wembley Stadium. The loss did little to enhance Howard

Wilkinson's chances of becoming England's coach. Playing under Wilkinson for the first time, England started well but was eventually overwhelmed by a French team that is now unbeaten in 17 matches spanning 11 months. While France was turning on the style

in London, Parisian fans had the chance to watch Portugal and the Netherlands do battle in the Parc des Princes.

And while there were no goals, the mostly Portuguese crowd of 30,000 had plenty of action as both teams opted for all-out attack. Portuguese midfielder Paulo Bento

missed the best chance of the night when he blasted a volley over the bar in the



Eusebio Di Francesco of Italy, left, fighting for the ball with Roar Strand of Norway during the teams' 0-0 draw in a friendly match in Pisa.

Clarence Seedorf and Utrecht striker a comfortable victory over Paragnay, Michael Mols came on as second half with the South Americans fielding only

A well-taken 45th minute goal by Ebbe Sand, a cool lob after a 40-meter run, sealed a 1-0 victory for Denmark over Croatia, which finished third in the World Cup.

Cold and heavy rain in Split, Croatia. "The myth of Wembley may be disappearing," Lemerre said, as Anelka became the first Frenchman to score became the first Frenchman to score

Croatia carved out several good chances but was repeatedly denied by goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel. In Pisa, Italy drew, 0-0, with a team it

had beaten in the World Cup. Italy hit the woodwork twice but failed to puncture a stubborn Norwegian defense. Roberto Baggio curled a free kick

gainst the inside of Thomas Myhre's lefthand post in the fourth minute and Marco Delvecchio later hooked a volley past Myhre, but again it bounced off the post and was cleared.

Norway forced its way into the match

ated clear-cut chances. Paraguay, which reached the second round of France 98, lost, 2-0, to Ireland

But the Dutch also came close, par-ticularly after Real Madrid midfielder

A Denis Irwin penalty and a goal by substitute David Connolly gave Ireland

two of the players who forced France to a golden goal victory in the World Cup second round. Wojciech Kowalczyk put Poland ahead in the first minute of their friendly

against Finland, played in Valetta, Malta, but Rangers striker Jonatan Iohansson equalized after 20 minutes, and the game finished at 1-1.
In the night's two European cham-

pionship qualifiers, Cyprus beat San Marino, 40, in Nicosia to claim their biggest-ever international victory, while rugoslavia cruised past Malta 3-0 in On Tuesday, Germany drew, 3-3, with Colombia in Miami after losing, 3-

0, to the United States on Saturday. • Juan Sorin's header in the 67th against Mexico on Wednesday night in a

friendly in Los Angeles. Jorge Campos, the Mexican goal-keeper, parried a shot by Guillermo Bar-ros Schelotto, but Sorin dived behind in the second half, but neither side cre- Campos to head the ball into the net from

> Argentina's roster included only three members from last year's World Cup team. Nevertheless, Argentina dominated a Mexican side that had 11 World Cup veterans. (Reuters, AP)

New Olympic Chief Hired by Utah Panel

Mitt Romney Vows 'Highest Level' of Ethics

The Associated Press

Lake City's Olympic committee letes. launched an internal shake-up Thursday that included hiring a new chief - the

"My goal is to make Utah proud, to make America proud," Romney said in taking over as president and chief executive officer.

As the Salt Lake Organizing Committee undertook sweeping reforms, in-cluding new conflict of interest rules, three of its leading members resigned.

The committee gave Romney its unanimous endorsement to take over the committee running the 2002 Winter Games, which has been rocked by the biggest corruption scandal in the history

of the Olympics.

"These Games and the preparations leading up to the Games will comply with the highest level of ethical conduct." Romney vowed.

Acting on proposals by the Utah governor, Mike Leavitt, the committee approved expanding its board of trustees from 33 to 50 and stripping it of its decision-making authority, making it an advisory board to a new management committee of 20.

Leavitt also gave any organizing committee member with a perceived conflict Domino's was a recent acquisition. of interest 60 days to resign. Two trustees directly affected — Earl Holding and Alan Layton — quit immediately.

Layton's construction company won a \$29 million contract to enclose the speedskating oval. Holding is the owner of Snowbasin Ski Area, which will get \$13.8 million from the organizing committee as the downhill and super-G venue, and Little America Grand, a hotel being built downtown that is expected to

be the IOC's home during the Games.

Also resigning was Verl Topham,
president of Utah Power, who had served on the original bid committee. He said he was doing so for the good of the

The Salt Lake Organizing Committee also adopted an open meetings and reminute gave Argentina a 1-0 victory cords policy and said that all of its members would be required to attend 75 percent of meetings.

Romney said he did not believe the

Olympic movement would be permanently stained by the scandal, in which the bid committee executives were found to have engaged in unethical conduct in spending more than \$1 million to curry favor with 24 members of the International Olympic Committee in order to win the games for Salt Lake City.

Agassi's Mouth Fouls Him Out of Match

time," he said. "The athletes haven't SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Salt Our job is to go to work for the ath-

Romney pledged to spend no more money than the Olympics take in, to Massachusetts venture capitalist Mitt spare taxpayers from funding and to protect the state's environment. 'Utahns will share in the thrill of the Olympic Games," he said.

Romney, the choice of Leavitt and the organizing committee chairman, Robert Garff, met with members of a hastily organized selection committee Tuesday night, hours after an internal ethics committee released its report saying that bid committee executives had engaged in unethical conduct.

Romney, 51, a Republican who unsuccessfully challenged Senator Ted Kennedy for the U.S. Senate in 1994, is the son of the late Governor George Romney of Michigan.

He lives in Belmont, Massachusetts, and also has a bome in Park City, Utah. He graduated from Mormon churchowned Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and has been a Mormon bishop (lay leader of a congregation) and stake president (leader of a group of congregations) in Massachusetts.

Romney's Boston company, Bain Capital Inc., specializes in buying companies and turning them around.

The ethics report linked another 10 IOC members to the scandal, bringing to 24 — a fifth of its membership — the number of delegates accused of accepting excessive benefits.

Senior Olympic officials said Thursday that the IOC would investigate the 10 even though not all of the new cases appear to warrant expulsion.

The IOC director general, Francois Carrard, said the 10 new names cited in the Salt Lake City ethics report were not necessarily guilty of major offenses.
"We will look into all these matters,

but prima facie, some of the cases do not necessarily appear to be serious," Carrard said in a telephone interview from Lausanne, Switzerland. "This doesn't mean we will not go to the bottom of the matter. If, after careful study, we find we have to make further recommendations. we will make them." Nine members have either resigned or

been expelled by the IOC executive board. Three others remain under investigation, one received a warning and one has died.

The IOC marketing director, Michael Payne, in New York on Thursday to meet with Olympic sponsors, said the IOC was doing everything in its power to stamp "The managers have messed up big out corruption and institute reform.

GENERAL

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SAN JOSE, California - Andre

Agassi, leading by a set and seemingly on his way to an easy victory over an unheralded opponent, was defaulted from the Sybase Open for a series of 'audible obscenities.' Agassi, a four-time champion and the second seed in the tournament this year,

won the first set 6-0 on Wednesday over the qualifier, Cecil Mamiit. In a secondset tiebreaker, trailing four points to none, Agassi began cursing. Agassi said the curses were directed at

himself and that he covered his mouth with his hand when he said the last two of his three obscenities.

never thought in a million years how that transpired that it would bring an end to the match.' "I've personally been involved in act-ing much worse," he went on, "and have never been involved in anything

Agassi was ejected from the RCA Championships in Indianapolis in 1996 for cursing officials.

point for another audible obscenity. second time, Agassi repeated his previous comment, and the ATP tour supervisor, Tom Barnes, was called to the court. He conferred with Ulrich, who

defaulted him - awarding the secondround match to Mamiit. "It's very sad to see it happen,"
Barnes said. "I'm sad for the players,
both of them. I'm sad for Andre. I'm sad for the officials. I'm sad for the fans they certainly didn't come to hear that." Barnes said Klassen was simply fol-

lowing procedure when he heard each of the three obscenities. Once they have "I was shocked," Agassi said. "I been reported and the umpire has assessed a warning and a penalty point, Barnes said, there is little choice but to default a player for the third violation.

'It's pretty rare to get to the third step," Barnes said. "It doesn't happen

very often." Agassi said he was frustrated by the penalty and repeatedly stressed that the words were aimed at himself. He said he knew a third code violation would result

A linesman, Al Klassen, went to chair in a default, but that he lost control. impire Steve Ulrich to report Agassi's "In the heat of battle, that was a bad first comment, and Agassi was warned decision on my part," Agassi said. "By for an audible obscenity. As Klassen the same token, it was a bad decision on returned to his chair, Agassi made anthe umpire's part and the linesman's ming 6-3, 6-2 to earn a place in the other comment and was penalized a part."

Marniit, who did not hear Agassi's As Klassen returned to his chair a curses, was disappointed that the match was over and asked Ulrich if there was any way that it could continue.

"I felt I was cheated," said Mamiit, who reached the quarterfinals of an ATP penalized Agassi for verbal abuse and tour event for the first time in his career. "I was playing well. I wanted to find out the end result of the match."

Agassi won his first-round match, 6-2, 6-1, on Monday night against Todd Woodbridge and seemed to be heading for another easy victory over Marnit when he made several mistakes to fall behind in the tiebreaker.

Because of the default, Agassi could face a fine of up to \$20,000, a loss of ranking points and a loss of the \$5,500 in prize money he earned at the Sybase

■ Golmard Upsets Kucera

Jerome Golmard beat Karol Kucera, the fifth seed, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1, Thursday in the Dubai Open, The Associated Press reported from Dubai.

Top-seed Alex Corretia, fourth-seed Greg Rusedski and sixth-seed Albert Costa have also been eliminated. In another match, Gustavo Kuerten

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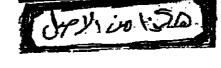
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Highest Level of Ethics

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SPORTS

Low-Profile Sonics Beat Warriors

The Associated Press

The Seattle SuperSonics stayed un-

Gary Payton scored 24 points as the Sonics beat the Warriors 89-82 on Wed-

NBA ROUNDUP

start since winning 10 straight to open the 1993-94 season, while Golden State dropped to 0-4.

We don't want to be recognized right now," Payton said. 'Let the Houstons, Utahs, San Antonios and Lakers, let them have the recognition. We're just poing to keep winning games."

The Warriors, blown out by 19 points Tuesday night in Seattle, were much more competitive in the rematch in Oakland. "I thought we played hard," said the Warriors coach, P.J. Carlesimo. "This

was the third game that we put ourselves in a position to win. I think it is important for the players to know that we didn't get it done and we are not satisfied with

Knicks 101, Wizards 88 Larry Johnson scored 18 points and Patrick Ewing and Charlie Ward added 16 apiece as New who were outrebounded 53-34 despite Charlie Ward added 16 apiece as New York beat Washington.

Chris Childs added 13 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Knicks, and 12 rebounds as Denver fell to 0-4. Sprewell, who is out three to six weeks with a stress fracture of his right heel. Juwan Howard scored 29 and Mitch

the second half, including six in the decisive surge, and added five assists nesday. Seattle improved to 4-0, its best and three steals. Shawn Kemp had 20 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland.

> Magic 89, Nets 81 Penny Hardaway and Nick Anderson each scored 21 points as Orlando won in New Jersey. Hardaway also had eight rebounds and six assists as the Magic improved to 3-1. The Nets, playing without injured guards Sam Cassell, Kerry Kittles and

Eric Murdock, fell to 1-2. Rockets 92, Kings 82 In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 19 points and 13 rebounds and Charles Barkley added 16 points and 16 rebounds as Houston beat

The Rockets trailed 69-66 going into the fourth quarter, but they took the lead for good at 77-76 with 6:39 left when Scottie Pippen hit a pair of free throws.

O'Neal's presence. The rookie Raef La-Frentz led the Nuggets with 24 points who won their first game after opening 02. New York played without Latrell couver, Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 35

points as the winless Los Angeles Clippers were dealt their third straight loss. and 12 assists as the Grizzlies won their ator from Wisconsin.

Cavaliers 87, Hornets 77 In Charlotte, first game after two losses. A Clippers Brevin Knight keyed a third-quarter run rockie, Michael Olowokandi, had 17 beaten and the Golden State Warriors that helped Cleveland get its first vicremained winless.

Carriers that helped Cleveland get its first victory. Knight scored 12 of his 14 points in
was the first overall pick in the draft and Bibby was second.

Trail Blazers 100, Pacers 92 In Portland, Isaiah Rider had 26 points and 11 rebounds and Damon Stoudamire added 23 points as the Trail Blazers beat In-

Rik Smits scored 23 points for Indiana but got little help from the Pacers' other top scorers. Reggie Miller, who came in averaging 22.7 points, was held to 12. Mark Jackson scored only three points and Chris Mullin had one point.

■ 6-Year Extension for Ray Allen

Ray Allen, who starred alongside Denzel Washington last year in the Spike Lee movie, "He Got Game," has signed a six-year, \$70.9 million contract extension with the Milwaukee Bucks, The Associated Press reported from Mil-

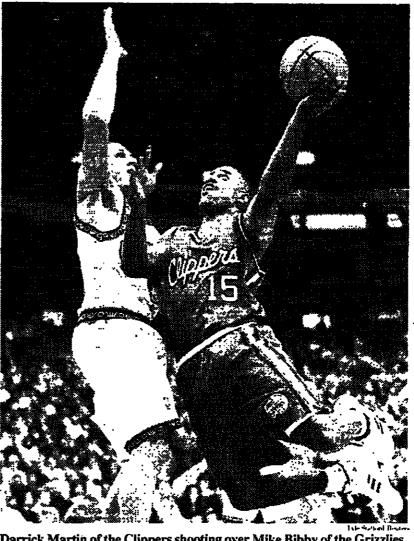
Lakera 103, Nuggets 98 Kobe Bryant The pact is nearly identical to those had 21 points and 10 rebounds as Los Angeles held off winless Denver.

The pact is nearly identical to those signed recently by fellow rising stars Kobe Bryant, Allen Iverson, Shareef Shaquille O'Neal added 29 points and Abdur-Rahim and Antoine Walker. The difference is that Allen won't

have to fork over a 4 percent commission or \$2,836,000 — to an agent. "I don't need somebody skimming millions off the top," said Allen, who paid a team of lawyers, a business manager and an accountant at an hourly rate

of up to \$500. ers were dealt their third straight loss.

Allen negotiated directly with team owner Herb Kohl, the senior U.S. sen-



Darrick Martin of the Clippers shooting over Mike Bibby of the Grizzlies.

Francis Quits The Gardens With 5 Points To Beat Leafs

Ron Francis has fond memories of Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens as a boy. It's likely he won't forget his last game there as a National Hockey League player, either.

He played his final game at the Gardens on Wednesday night, scoring

NHL ROUNDUP

five points to lead the Carolina Hurricanes to a 6-5 victory over the Maple

"A lot of great games have been played here," said the 35-year-old Fran-cis, a native of Sault Ste, Marie, Ontario,

who grew up a Maple Leafs fan.

The Maple Leafs will play their final game in the Gardens on Saturday against Chicago before opening their new Air Canada Center against the Montreal Canadiens on Feb. 20.

Blues 5, Lightning 4 in Tampa, Pavol Demitra and Terry Yake scored thirdperiod goals as St. Louis rallied to hand the Lightning their seventh straight

had two power-play goals and Jeff Norton scored another, leading San Jose in Chicago.

The Sharks entered the game last in

the league in power-play efficiency with only 29 goals in 248 attempts for an 11.7 percentage. They cashed in on three of seven power-play opportunities Wed-nesday night. The loss was the Blackhawks' sixth straight.

Coyotes 3, Kings 0 In Phoenix. Nikolai Khabibulin made 26 saves for his sixth shutout and Greg Adams Angeles. Mighty Ducks 5. Flyors 4 Anaheim dealt

visiting Philadelphia only its second loss in 25 games and ended the Flyers' eightgame unbeaten streak as Fredrik Olausson had two goals and two assists.

In 3d Defeat of Season, Cincinnati Admits It Lost Fair and Square

The first two times No. 4 Cincinnati lost this

season, there were controversial calls by the officials. Not this time. Marquette beat the visiting Bearcats, 62-58, on

Wednesday night. "I'd be interested to see what they had to say

tonight." said Mike Deane, the Marquette coach, referring to the Bearcats' comments that their 19point January victory over the Eagles should have been more of a blowout. He probably didn't like what he heard.

"I don't know if it's so much that they stayed with us as we didn't play hard," said Ryan Fletcher, who led Cincinnati with 15 points. "Not to take No. 2 Connecticut 66, Boston College 50 Khalid game and had a lot of heart. And that's something El-Amin scored 19 points and the leading Con-

SCOREBOARD

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BASKETBALL Socremento
LA Clippers
Griden Store

we haven't had the last couple of weeks." The Bearcats (21-3, 8-3 Conference USA) didn't

COLLEGE BASKETBALL inadvertent whistle cost them at North Carolina-

Charlotte and a disputed foul call at the overtime buzzer did the same against DePaul last Saturday. Brian Wardle led Marquette (12-12, 4-8) with 19 ence. Nnamaka's three-point play with 39 seconds left broke a 54-54 tie, and the Swede's free throw

with 9.1 seconds left provided the final margin. No. 2 Connecticut 66, Boston College 50 Khalid

Lakers: O'Neal 12-20-5-9-29, Jones 7-14-4-6
21, Bryant 8-15-4-5-21, D: LaFrentz 10-18-1-1
24, McDyess 10-17-1-2-21, Beboonds—Lakers-42 (Bryant 10), Denver 24 (McDyess 19),
Assists—Lakers-24 (Horry 5, Bryant 5, Fisher
5), Denver 24 (Von Exel 10),
L.A. Clippers 22-22-23—99
Vancouver 23 20-22-30—105
Clippers: Murray 6-17-8-11-21, Olowokandi
5-10-7-10-17, V: Abdor-Robins 9-20-16-17-35,
Na. 18, Iwan (16-6) def. Na. 22 Mirrs. (14-7) 76-73.
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Old Dominion 76, American U. 70 Alabama 72, LSU 71, 30T Arlassas 72, South Carolina 66 Mississippi St. 47, Vanderbili 42 Wake Forest 79, Clemson 69

Texas A&M 79, Kansos St. 74

No. 6 N. Dome (28-2) def. Villanovs 74-52. No. 9 Rutgers (21-4) def. Mismi 66-57. No. 13 Tex. Tech (20-3) def. Tex. A&M 74-52.

No. 16 lawa St. (16-5) Iost to Konsos St. 70-63. No. 18 Virginia (17-6) def. N.C. St. 67-53.

EUROLEAGUE

GIVE IT TO SOMEONE

ON "BAKED POTATO DAY"

 $\sqrt{2}$

Cibona Zogreb, Cra., BS, Fenerbahce, Turk., 84

missing two games because of an injury as the Huskies (21-1, 12-1 Big East) beat the Eagles (6-15, 3-10) for the 21st straight time.

necticut scorer, Richard Hamilton, returned after

No. 7 Maryland 63, North Carolina State 50 Terence Morris had 17 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for the visiting Terrapins (21-4, 9-3 Atlantic Coast Conference).

No. 10 Arizona 86, Arizona St. 80 Freshman Michael Wright scored 22 points, and the Wildcats points, but it was big plays in the final minute by the (17-4, 9-3 Pac-10) won their 27th straight home freshman Oluoma Nnamaka that made the differgame and their eighth in a row over the Sun Devils

No. 15 Wisconsin 57, Northwestern 45 Ty Calderwood scored 13 points, and the Badgers (20-5, 8-4 Big Ten) reached the 20-victory mark for the third time in school history. Evan Eschmeyer had 16

I C E H O C K E Y

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

21 26 4 46 129 133 11 37 4 26 106 191

No. 19 Iowa 76, No. 22 Minnesota 73 Dean Oliver scored 15 points to lead five double-figures scorers in the revamped Iowa starting lineup. The Hawkeyes (16-6, 7-5 Big Ten) allowed 185 points last week in his sixth shutout and Greg Adams losses to Purdue and Michigan State. Quincy Lewis scored twice as the Coyotes beat Los finished with 30 points for the Gophers (14-7, 5-6).

points for visiting Northwestern (14-7, 6-5).

Tennessee 91, No. 23 Florida 56 Brandon Wharton scored 20 points for the Volunteers (15-7, 7-4 Southeastern Conference), who snapped a twogame losing streak. Kenyan Weaks had 12 points for the Gators (16-6, 7-5).

Nebraska 64, No. 24 Kansas 57 Venson Hamilton and Larry Florence each scored 17 points for the recorded his 600th NHL point with an Cornhuskers (16-8, 8-3 Big 12), who snapped a 15- assist on Steve Rucchin's power-play year losing streak in Allen Fieldhouse. Ryan goal, leading the Ducks to their fourth Robertson had 16 for the host Jayhawks (16-7, 8-3). successive victory.

Ireland 2. Paraguay 0

Tarrorte 2 1 2–5
1st Period: T-Bernzin 19 (D.King, Korolev) 2
C-Gelinos 8 (Direcen, Francis) 3. C-Francis 9
(Kapamen, Roberts) 4. T-Berezin 20 (Dami,
Korolev) 2d Period: C-Sheppard 19 (Francis,
Coffey) (pp). 6, T-Berezin 21 (Berard,
Korolev) 7, C-Dineen 8 (Francis) 3d Period:
T-Sutievan 11 (Joseph, D King) 9, C-Francis
10 (Roberts, Kapamen) 10. C-Ranheim 5
(Wesley, Primeau) 11, T-Modin 13 (Sundin,
Thomas) Shots on goat: C-10-5-10—25, T-8
13-8—29, Goaties: C-17te, T-Jussen)

13-8—29. Godies: C-Irbe. T-Joseph.
Les Angeles 0 0 0—0
Phoents 0 0 3—3 Phoents 0 0 3—2 1st Per.; 0, 2d Per.: 0, 3d Period; P-Adoms 12 (Torchet, Tverdovsky) 2, P-Adoms 13 (Briere, Corney) 3, P-Roenick 18 (Supleton, Doingrouth) Shots on goal: L.A. 10-10-6—26, P-15-12-13—40, Goalies: L.A.-Stor, P-Khabibulin, #FIC DIVISION gneault) S 30 10 8 68 141 99 15-12-13-28 13 10 66 136 103 Sæn Jæse 21 22 9 51 135 129 Chicago

18 22 12 48 118 122 131 Period: S.J.-Norton 12 (Friesen, Korn-19 29 4 42 122 140 lyuk) (pp). 2. C-Emerson 12 (Amonte. Loftomme) 24 Period: S.J.-Murphy 13 (Korn-1 2 2—5 lyuk, Marleau) (pp). 34 Period: C-Chellos 6. 2 2 0—4 5, S.J.-Houlder 5 (Marleau) 6, S.J.-Murphy 14 St. Louis
Tampa Bay
1st Period: T-Gration 3 (Dalgis, Clark), 2,
S.L.-Dernitro 24 (Turgeon, Macrianis), 3, 17,
Hogue's (McBain, Nylonder) 24 Period: S.L.-Poung
Pelerin 12 (Persson, Turgeon), S.S.L.-Young
12 (Picard) 6, T-Tucker 13 (Zamuner, Richer)

Tampa Bay
15, S.J.-Houider 5 (Morteau) 6, S.J.-Marieau 13,
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P Annerer 2 1 2—5
1st Period: A-Selanne 23 (Otoussor,
McInnis) (pp). 2, A-Otousson 13 (Green,
Drury) 2d Period: P-Langkow 9 (Lindros,
Jones) (pp). 4, A-Selanne 24 (Rucchin,
McInnis) (pp). 5, P-Lindros 30 (Desjardins,

Brind Amoun' (pp.). 3d Period: A-Rucchin 18 (Olausson, Selama) (pp.). 7, A-Clausson 14 (Kariya, Culien') 8, P-LeCtoir 34 (Lindros, McGillis) (pp.). 9, P-Lindros 31 (LeCtoir, Jones) Shots on goal: P-6-9-17—32, A-8-10-SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS QUALIFYING

Israel 4: Spain 3: San Marino 0. 1 1 3—5 STANDINGS: Ireland 6 points: Mai 1 0 1—2 nia 6: Yugoslavia 6: Croatia 6: Maita 0.

ADMAR MCOMARMEMENCED

ASIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP EAST ASIA ZONE QUARTERIPHALS Jubito twota, Jop., 1, Pohong Steelers, S. Kor., 1 Dollan Wands, Ch., 2, Puson Doewog, S. Kor., 2 woo 1; Pohang Steelers 1, Jubilo Iwata 1. CRICKET

INDIA BOARD XI VS. PAKISTAN THREE-DAY MATCH, FIRST DAY THURSDAY IN COCHIN, INDIA Pakistan: 247-9 der

TRANSITIONS

NATIONAL BABKETBALL AS -Fined Phoenix coach Donny Amo \$3,000 for kicking basketball into stands to lowing his ejection from Feb. 9 game. N.Y. KNICKS—Put G Latrell Sprewell on in jured list.

GIVE ME DON'T TEMPT ME! LIBERTY OR AND LISTEN, YOU GIVE ME CALL ME "MON,"

_**9**07 IT?

DEATH.

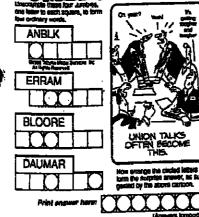
QUEEN!

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DENNIS THE MENACE



"I GUESS SUNBLOCK DOESN'T WORK." THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
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Linguistics Trained four America.



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BEETLE BAILEY

THIS JEEP

8). Assists—Weshington 14 (5thicklond B). New York 27 (Chibds 9). Socrements 18 24 27 13— 82 Houston 26 25 15 26— 92 S. Webber 10-25 1-2 21; Williamson 6-13 4-616, Williams 8-190-016; H.; Clejnbron 8-193-4 19, Barkley 6-17 4-4 16, Price 7-13 0-0 16.

PEANUTS

Hordenary 8), N.J. 64 (Williams 21). Assists
—Oriended 21 (Hordenary 4), N.J. 14 (Gill 4).
Cleveland 30 21 19 17— 87
Charlotte 17 24 22 14— 77
C. Kemp 4-7 12-15 29, Sura 6-9 2-2 15: C. Coleman 6-13 4-9 16. Wesley 7-13 0-0 16.
Rebounds—Cleveland 47 (Kemp 13), Chorlotte 43 (Coleman 7). Assists—Cleveland 17 (Kemp 13), Chorlotte 43 (Coleman 7). Assists—Cleveland 17 (Kinght 5), Charlotte 21 (Philis, Wesley 4).
Worshington 19 24 25 20— 38
New York 24 32 42 11—101
W: Howard 12-22-5-8 29, Richmond 8-19 910-25, N.Y. Johnson 8-141-218 Ewing 5-15-6
8 16, Word 4-5-6-7 16. Rebounds—Woshington 19 25 16 28— 39
hington 50 (Howard 12), New York 50 (Childs 6). Assists—Woshington 14 (Sinckland 8), Rev York 27 (Childs 9).

Service 21 (Wartin 5), Vancouver 22 (Bibby 12).
Indian 80 (Rider 11). Assists—Indiana 16 (M. Jackson 11), Portland 19 (Stoudamire 9).
Service 19 25 16 28— 39
Golden State 27 16 28 19— 32
S: Poyton 8-19-6-824, Schrempf 7-151-217;
G.5, Storks 9-19 7-1 22, Mills 6-12 4-4 19, Gebounds—Seattle 5 (Chrempf 7), Golden



Separation 3-196-824, Schrempf 7-151-217, G.S. Storks 9-19 1-1 22, Mills 6-12 4-4 19. Rebounds—Sectifie 54 (Schrempf 9), Golden Stote 45 (Carmings 10), Assists—Sectife 26 (Payton 11), Golden State 18 (Bogues 12).

U,S. College Scores

MEN

TOP 25

No. 2. Conn. (21-1) def. Boston Coll. 66-50. No. 4. Cincinneti (21-3) lost to Marquette 62-58. No. 7. Maryland (21-0) def. N.C. St. 63-50.









LET'ME WORK







CALVIN AND HOBBES

YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE IN MERLY BIG TROUBLE!



MM DIDN'T YOU GET ON THE SCHOOL BUS?" NOW I'VE GOT TO DRIVE YOU, AND YOUR



NON SEQUITUR

wait...wait...!'M Getting a neggage

PARKER:

15 SUPPING

AT THE

POLLS





DOONESBURY







The Tyranny of Snow

By Sheryl WuDunn New Fork Tones Servec

C APPORO. Japan — For I most of the year. Lieu-tenant Naoki Uchimura leads a 15-man platoon in charge of theater stages that have be-Japanese missile systems on come the signature of the Yuki the alert for enemy planes.

But for a month, he has faced a challenge that, at one point, had him hanging his trips this year, carting in head in shame. Uchimura was about 38,000 tons of snow charged with creating Bugs Bunny — in the form of a snow sculpture the size of a four-story building. "My special mission!" he said.

Every year, when snow blankets Hokkaido, this island was seen standing alone in in the north of Japan, Sapporo front of the giant sculpture transforms some of its spa- with the collapsed foot, his cious streets into outdoor mu- head hanging low in shame. seums of snow and ice. Snow sculptures line the main avenue, ice crystal sculptures take up another enclave and giant snow buildings and ice slides sprawl across a military

camp of the 11th Division. One year, the city had a model of the White House big enough for a conference. Other years have brought copies of the Sphinx, Buckingham Palace and the Taj Mahal. The driving force for this

festival in the city that was home to the 1972 Winter Olympics is the Self-Defense Forces. Drawing upon the labor of 1,700 people, soldiers began in December to plan the array of sculptures that dot the city for this one week.

The military's closet artists emerge - the ones who can the image Bugs Bunny. The draw, the cartoonists, the representative, however, said sculptors. Mathematicians. too: to calculate how much snow is needed, how long it will take to transport that snow and how many truckloads are needed.

may be enough to shape a few small figurines on the edge of the festival, it is not nearly enough snow to make the lifesize palaces, elephants, village homes, historical figures and Matsuri, the Snow Festival. So, with 250 five-ton

trucks, soldiers made 7,600 from the mountains.

Uchimura's main challenge was to capture Bugs Bunny. After the statue had gone up, it rained and one of Bugs's feet fell off. Uchimura

Then, about 10 days before



the festival was to open. Warner Brothers sent a representative to check the likeness and give the nod to call the sculpture did not really resemble Bugs Bunny, so Uchimura ordered the several dozen members of his team to

recarve the entire image. So, in the end, does it re-Sapporo is cold and bliz-zardy this time of year: snow-murred: "We have not gotten banks on the streets sometimes any approval yet, 'he said. in reach a story high. While that a subtle admission of defeat.

John le Carre Plunges Into an Ugly New World

By Katherine Knorr rnational Herald Triinme

Carre novel, "Single & Single," looks at a horderless world of international capitalism, the nastynasty side of what financial jourkets, a place where there are no rules and no morals at all.

Union — including blood — and the ability to launder vast amounts of money. The book's antihero. Tiger Single, explains quite neatly that his eponymous venture-capital firm will go where no man has gone before to promote the trading alliances of this ugly new world.

In the old Soviet Union, and particularly in Georgia, where large parts of the book take place, there are no laws, except the violent but shifting clan alliances of men who have to protect their villas with battlefield weaponry. Former intelligence agents from all over the Soviet bloc have diversified like everybody else, gone capitalist with a vengeance.

On the Western side, the terrifying consequences of the Soviet breakup are either ignored, or crude notion that free enterprise produces freedom." Cornwell said, speaking softly, with the characteristic le Carre mixture of comic and tragic, before a fire in his Hampstead house, "Russians have discovered bitterly that, as far as they're concerned, there are worse

things than state control."
"What we have in 'Single &

Single' is a total amorality, a complete mayhem of self-interest."

This is also a book about a trou-ONDON - For nearly 40 bled father-son relationship, a years, David Cornwell has cre- theme that has informed many of ated his famous parallel universe, a the le Carre novels but none more world of killers and listeners, than "A Perfect Spy," There the where the struggle between good brilliantly drawn Rick Pym, conand evil ends in ugly compromise. man and ex-con, was partly a por-where loyalty and honor are yes-trait of Cornwell's own father. Tiger terday's virtues. As the former So- Single resembles Pym in some viet Union sinks into ever more ways, particularly in his ability to alarming chaos, his latest John le command the obstinate love-disgust of his son. In "Single & Single," however, this relationship will turn out dramatically differently.

"Until I die the father-son renalists blandly call emerging mar- lationship will obsess me," Cornwell said. "I followed the [Robert] Maxwell case with great interest. This is a world ruled by the abil-ity to tap into The Highest Level in the Kevin and Ian trial, I couldn't the Land to sell off whatever can be moved out of the former Soviet happened if my father's career had been that much more respectable and that much more successful. "I began to wonder what would

have happened if my brother and myself had gone into the family firm. So then I really got kind of liftoff from that notion: At what point might either of us, if ever, havehad a moral crisis about it, and where is the borderline, when do you actually drift into criminality?

My sister Charlotte, my halfsister." he went on, "she actually rang me up during the Maxwell trial or when the whole Maxwell affair broke. She said, what does this remind you of?'

Cornwell's long and highly successful writing career (he is 67) has shown that he is a master psychological writer, and also extremely plundered. Eves are averted, naiveté rules: There's this terrible
up of the Soviet Union, he has been
saying that the West was totally tially turned its back on the mess of violence and wretchedness that has swept over much of Russia.

He first visited the Soviet Union in the second half of the 1980s preceded by the fame of his Cold War books, where George Smiley had finally won his Pyrrhic victory

David Cornwell examines the "mayhem of self-interest."

over the master agent runner Karla against the law, they were working and he has returned since.

"I did a tour of bosses of criminal gangs, and it was really terrifying." he said. "Not because of the physical danger. It felt unreal. Our conwith grenades strapped to their belts they said one after another was,

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against the system and there was a system. But there's no system here and there's no law.

The "Single & Single" mobster versations were monitored by kids. Georgia, are an ugly bunch, and yet the portraits are subtle. The patand Kalashnikovs. There were such riarch, Yevgeny, protector of his excesses of threat that it became brother Mikhail and of his own ridiculous and theatrical. But what family, belongs to an older Russia. and is pulled between the need to look, there is no constitution here, keep turning over the money, and there is no legal system. Probably utopian schemes for the "home" none of us has done anything that the villages. His brutality is tempered Russian criminal code can nail us by a certain humanity. The women for. And it's no good making com- are big-chested and mother-earthy. parisons with Chicago in the 20s sometimes even noble, presiding because those guys knew they were over the caviar and the Georgian

cheesebread and the almond cake and the sweet red wine Alix Hoban, who has married

into the clan, is the nastiest character of all and one of the symbols of the new Russia: "Hoban comes right out of that set of young Russians, ex-KGB, that I met in '92." Cornwell said, "and they are trightening because they were brought up with a Communist silver spoon in their mouths and they went to language school and KGB school and they were taught to wear Italian suits and behave in Western society, and actually they're the most dread-ful little thugs and totally amoral."

Among the ugly irontes of the dismantling of the Soviet empire. are the way some Communist in-tellectuals and indeed high-ranking former officials have been able to recycle themselves and in a weird way feed into the West's cult of celebrity.

"We have this phenomenon of Markus Wolf." the former spy-master, "emerging from East Germany, "Cornwell said, "First of all he was tried unsuccessfully by the Germans themselves. Now he's become a kind of public figure, he's published a cookbook.

"Again and again and again. I've been asked to appear on television with him. I think they have an image which has absolutely no basis in fact because I was never into that kind of sruff: They have an image of the two old agent runners talking to one another as if we were veterans of the Battle of Britain and I'm supposed to say how I loved the way your Messerschmitt sculled around the clan, the Orlovs, newcomers to corner and he's supposed to say, ah but your Spitfires were better, and we shake hands. I find this repulsive. I think that Markus Wolf and his kind knew better than anyone. because of the way they were placed, what a foul little regime they were serving, and I think they are thoroughly guilty men and they should slink away in disgrace and be forgotten, instead of which they're ennobled in some way.

People are rushing to forgive who have no right to forgive.



CARNIVAL — Revelors kicking off Cologne's annual carnival Thursday.

THE ACTOR Brad Pitt has won a ▲ three-year restraining order against a woman who hoisted herself into his house and made herself at home for 10 hours. Athena Rolando, 19, was ordered Wednesday to not contact the actor and to stay 100 yards away from him for three years. Pitt already had been granted a temporary restraining order. I'd actually like to file a restraining order against Mr. Pitt himself to stay away from me." Rolando said after the hearing. Pitt contends she has left "many menacing and bizarre letters" outside his home since September 1996.

James Cromwell, who co-starred with a pig in "Babe." joined an animalhts group in accusing a North Carolina farm of illegally beating and killing hogs. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals released a videotape showing farmhands bludgeoning sows with iron bars, metal canes and wrenches. In one scene, a worker kills a lame hog by dropping a cinder block on its head. The videotape was narrated by

Cromwell, who played Farmer Hoggett 30, who works for a German pharmain the film about a pig who wants to be a

Nearly a half century after the publication of Ralph Ellison's landmark novel, "Invisible Man," Random House is preparing to publish his second novel, a work he struggled with for more than 40 years and left unfinished when he died in 1994. Ellison began writing the book in 1954, seemed on the verge of completing it in 1967, then kept revising and rethinking it until his death at 80. The novel, "Juneteenth," is set for publication on June 19 or Juneteenth, the anniversary of the day in 1865 when Texas slaves finally learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, which had taker effect two and a half years earlier.

The only daughter of Prince Hans-Adam II, the ruler of the tiny Alpine principality of Liechtenstein, is to marry a German businessman on June 5. Tatjana. 25. will wed Philipp von Latorff,

ceutical company.

Bowing to the wishes of the family of Charlie Parker, the mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, has dropped plans to move the legendary saxophonist's body

to the district honoring the city's jazz a tradition. Parker's grave in Lincoln Cemetery, in an area between Kansas City and Independence, has been a mecca for jazz fans. Mayor Emanuel Cleaver had wanted to move the body to the 18th and Vine District, where a large sculpture of Parker will stand.

Mellon's Will Enriches National Gallery

WASHINGTON — The philanthropist Paul Mellon, who died on Feb. 1 at the age of 91, has left the National Gallery of Art the largest gift in its history, \$75 million in cash and more than 100 pictures worth many times that much, a gallery official said Wednesday night.

Mellon's will is said to specify that the gallery receive two oils by Vincent van Gogh ("Still Life of Oranges and Lemons With Blue Gloves," painted in 1889, and "Green Wheat Fields, Auvers," 1890), and works by Manet. Cezanne, Monet, Renoir and others.

The bequest also includes a dozen paintings by the American master Winslow Homer and works by other Americans, according to The Washington Post, which reported the gift in Thursday's editions.

Mellon had previously given more than 900 works of art to the gallery that his father, the financier Andrew Mellon, helped to found on the National Mall. Construction of the gallery began in 1937 and was completed in 1941.



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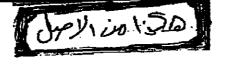


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By Sandra Sugawara

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